Parks and Recreation - 1930

Delaware

WILMINGTON, DEL
EVERY EVENING

MAR 28 1930

COUNCIL PROVIDES FUND OF $16,000 FOR NEGRO POOL

Will be Located Across From Howard High School.

TO TOTAL $60,000

A fund of $16,000 to be used in purchasing a plot of land on Fourteenth St., between Poplar and Wilson Sts., for the purpose of erecting a swimming pool for negroes in the city, was unanimously voted by City Council last night at its regular meeting.

The action was recommended by the Board of Park Commissioners.

The entire cost of the project when completed, including the cost of the land, will be between $50,000 and $60,000, it was said. The new pool will be modern in every way and will replace the old Walnut St., pool at Sixteenth St.

Headed by Edgar L. Haynes, president of the Park Commission, the commission had planned the project for many months before revealing the project. City Council, when approached some time back for funds was most favorable, it was said. A bond issue to cover the costs of construction. James B. McManus, chairman of the finance committee of City Council said, will be issued as soon as the Park Commission has had the opportunity to complete its plans and ask for bids for the construction work.

Location Ideal.

It was pointed out that the location of the pool is ideal in that it will be located almost directly across the street from the Howard High School and the Howard Playground. This grouping together of school, playground, and swimming pool should provide an excellent centering of activities of the negroes of the city, was the sentiment expressed both by Council and the Park Commission.

The plot of land upon which Council voted to take an option placed by Charles C. Kurtz, realtor, for the Park Commission, is 169 feet in length on Wilson and Poplar Sts., by 152 feet on Fourteenth St. It was purchased from the New Castle Leather Manufacturing Co., who has a large plant in the neighborhood.

Plans for the pool were made by Edward R. Mack, superintendent of the Park Commission, as well as its chief engineer. Mr. Mack designed Price Run Pool, considered one of the finest in the country. He also designed the new Southwest Park pool, which is now in the course of construction.

Members of Council were invited to attend the laying of the cornerstone of the First M. P. Church, Thirty-sixth and Washington Sts., Sunday afternoon at 2.30.

William N. Cann, president of City Council, presided last night.

Parks and Recreation-1930

Playground Leaders Receive Certificates

The class of Playground Leaders which has been meeting on Tuesday nights for the past ten weeks received certificates Tuesday night at the Garnet-Patterson Gymnasium. There were 24 organizations represented in this class, covering all the welfare organizations of the city.

The institution closed with games, stunts, and folkdances, with a final initiation. The class has become eligible for the "Deep Purple Order of Alumni." They plan a meeting, Thursday of next week, to perfect their plans for the future. At a previous meeting, the permanent organization was formed with Clarence A. Brown as president; Anna E. Bell, vice-president; Henrietta Taylor as secretary; Frederic Smith as treasurer, and Raymond E. Contee as recreational director.

Parks and Recreation-1930

LOUISVILLE, KY

Times

MAR 20 1930

NEGROES' RECREATIONAL TRAINING COURSE SET

A training course in recreational activities has been offered to a Negro class of not more than forty students by the Recreational Council of the Community Chest. Registration for the class closes Friday night.

The classes are planned for 7:30 o'clock on each Monday and Wednesday night beginning March 24 and running through April 14 at the Phyllis Wheatley Y. W C. A., 528 South Sixth Street. The programmes include discussions of the theories of group organization, demonstrations of music, dramatics, stunts, pageants under Miss Marguerite Nicklies and handicraft instruction by Miss Nell McCulloch.

A committee in charge of the course consists of Mrs. George R. Newman, chairman; Miss Emily Reed, Recreation Council; Mrs. George Joplin, Miss Elizabeth Wilson, Mrs. S. L. Greenebaum, Jr., Miss Florence Fennessey, Mrs. Maeme Brock, Miss Mary Taylor, Miss Lillian R. Carpenter, Atwood S. Wilson and W. B. Matthews.

HERALD POST
LOUISVILLE, KY.

NEGRO TRAINING COURSE OPENS

The training course which the Recreation Council of the Community Chest is offering Negro recreation leaders at the Phyllis Wheatley Y. W. C. A., opened Monday night with a programme which, according to directors, is typical of those to be given each Monday and Wednesday night from 7:30 o'clock to 9:30 o'clock.

The types of plays to choose for children, the values of amateur production and the methods of casting, rehearsing and producing were discussed Monday night. A demonstration led by Miss Marguerite Nicklies followed. Specific suggestions were made for handling shyness and awkwardness and other youthful characteristics.

During the second period of the evening Miss Nell McCulloch gave handicraft instruction, using as her special feature patchwork posters.

APR 1 - 1930

NEGRO RECREATION COURSE IS OPENED

A training course for Negro recreation leaders opened Monday night in the Phyllis Wheatley Y. W. C. A., sponsored by the recreation council of the Community Chest. This program was similar to the regular meetings each Monday and Wednesday night.

Types of plays to choose for children, casting, rehearsing and producing were discussed. A demonstration by Miss Marguerite Nicklies followed. In the second period Miss Nell McCulloch gave handicraft instructions, featuring patchwork posters.

COURIER JOURNAL
LOUISVILLE, KY.

APR 1 1930

Louisiana

Parks and Recreation - 1930

9,27,30. **GULFSIDE**

(From the New Orleans States)

On Wednesday there was a celebration on the gulf shore near Waveland that commands interest and comment; for it discloses new and potential influences for good that have germinated in the heart of the Black Belt. Herald-Common-wealth.

The occasion was the seventh anniversary of the founding of Gulfside. Few, perhaps, know that Gulfside is the only permanently established assembly ground along the entire Atlantic Seaboard that has for its aim the cultural religious welfare of Negroes. It is a unique thing in Southern history: an organized ethical center for the race in the heart of a Negro population in excess of 5,000,000; a center strictly racial, but not sectarian, conceived and conducted by Negroes. 9-2-1-30 Baltimore, Md.

Gulfside seeks the moral rather than the financial support of white people, though neither has been with held. In all its history, there has not been te sligtest racial friction between the Gulfside group and its neighboring white communities. At the celebration Wednasday Lieutenant-Governor Adams and representatives o ithe State Educational Board were present to lend official encouragement to this new growth in the heart of the Black Belt; and Dr. R. R. Moton, of Tuskegee Institute, delivered the anniversary address.

Gulfside was founded by Dr. Robert E. Jones, Negro Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the New Orleans Area. Seven years ago he bought 600 acres along the gulf near Waveland for less than $6,000, and for which he has since been offered ten times as much. He converted the "big house" once owned by Jackson into a modern hotel; built assembly halls and cottages, bathhouses, tenns courts and dormitories. The activities include summer normal schools, schools for music, home economics, religious training, social service, town and rural preachers, and a year-round free school for "under-privileged boys" is operated. It conducts Camp Moorland for Boy Scouts. Camp Waveland for Girl Reserves, Camp Rest a While for tired mothers and holds Epworth League institutes. It has a male quartet that has risen to radio fame, and produces plays written, acted and directed by Negroes.

Parks and Recreation - 1930

Maryland

PICK GERALD ALLEN FOR P.A.L. POST

Canton Urban League Executive will Head Recreation Unit Here.

Gerald E. Allen, executive secretary of the Canton, Ohio, Urban League, has been elected director of colored recreation under the Playground Athletic League, and is expected to report for service within a month, it was learned this week.

The selection of Mr. Allen brings to a successful termination the effort of the recently appointed bi-racial committee, headed by Sidney Hollander, white, to launch a general program of recreational activities for the group in the city. His appointment, recommended by the committee, was officially approved by the P.A.L. at a special meeting Tuesday evening.

To Launch Program

As soon as Mr. Allen reaches the city, he will begin to make plans for the launching of the city-wide program outlined by the bi-racial committee. He will have drection of all work to be done among the group and will be responsible to the P.A.L. through the bi-racial committee which was appointed to promote the colored work.

The sub-committee which worked out the arrangements with the P.A.L., through which Mr. Allen was secured, included: Sidney Hollander, chairman; Mrs. Marie O. H. Bauernschmidt of the Public School Association, Dr. William Burdick, William N. Jones, Mrs. Carrington Davis, John W. Haywood, Thomas H. Y. Clark, Judge J N. Ulman, president of the Urban League; Dr. Broadus Mitchell of Johns Hopkins, all representing the bi-racial committee, and Theodore Straus, U.S. District Judge William C. Coleman, and George G. Shriver, vice president of the B. and O. Railroad, representing the P.A.L.

NEW P.A.L. UNIT STARTS PROGRAM HERE THIS WEEK

Afro-American Baltimore, Md 1-12-30

Colored Department to Develop City - Wide Program.

HAVE 4 SECTIONS

Athletics, Social, Musical, Dramatic Workers.

Organization of the staff of the new P.A.L. unit to develop a city-wide recreation program among Negroes in Baltimore was announced this week at a meeting of the Biracial Committee by Dr. William Burdick.

At the meeting of the committee which was held in the Association Commerce building, plans for the mediate development of the work of the Negro unit was outlined by Sidney Hollander, chairman.

Starts Work Immediately

Gerald E. Allen, brought here three months ago from Canton, Ohio, to head the department, reported that the work of selecting a staff had been completed with the exception of an office stenographer, and that a summer program had already been started on the playgrounds.

Under the plans of the new organization there will be four divisions of the work, each headed by an expert in his or her line. These departments are athletic, music, social and civic, and dramatic.

The athletic department will be headed by Clarence C. Jackson, Jr., who for some time has been in the employ of the P.A.L. Mr. Jackson's department was transferred to the Negro unit July 1, according to Dr. Burdick.

The department of music will be headed by Miss Anna Coulston, graduate of the music department of the University of Pennsylvania. W. Llewellyn Wilson will be retained in an advisory capacity for the first two months in order that Miss Coulston may become familiar with the local organizations as soon as possible.

The social and civic work will be headed by Mrs. Virginia B. Hall, wife of Dr. George L. Hall, local physician. Mrs. Hall has had experience in community work in Atlanta and Cleveland.

Miss Alice Davis Crawford, formerly of Hartford, Conn., but now employed in similar work in New York City, will head the dramatic department.

Plans Camp

Among the immediate summer activities, besides the system of playgrounds already started, the unit will conduct a large camp for boys during the month of August. The camp is being planned to accommodate 100 boys and will select groups from those needing it most, according to Mr. Allen. The local Boy Scout organization will assist in supervising the camp, according to plans being perfected.

A program of outdoor summer dances for young people is also scheduled. The concrete tennis courts in Druid Hill Park or a pavilion will be used this summer.

A mammoth music festival early in October and a dramatic tournament in the fall, are among the objectives upon which the heads of these departments will start immediately. All of these persons were at the meeting Monday, except Miss Crawford. She is to report later.

Completes Work

The organization of the staff and the launching of the active program completes the first phase of the work undertaken by the Bi-Racial Committee several months ago, following a survey by Ernest Atwell and R. Maurice Moss of the Baltimore Urban League.

Up to that time there had not been sufficient funds to develop the work among Negroes. The Bi-Racial Committee obtained an appropriation of $10,200 from the Board of Estimates for the first year, to be added to the $7,000 already being spent by the P.A.L.

A sub-advisory committee comprising Mrs. Roy S. Bond, Mrs. Carrington Davis, Miles Connor, Mrs. Sarah B. Mason and William N. Jones, will assist the staff of workers in carrying

Members of the Bi-

Missouri.

Parks and Recreation - 1930

$100,000.00 POOL IS DEDICATED IN EAST ST. LOUIS

Urges

Ultra-Modern Building Is Finest Of Kind In Country For Colored People. Meets Need

8-8-31

IS VAST ACCOMPLISHMENT

St Louis Mo

Park Board Carried Thru Project Despite Opposition. To Serve As Community Center.

The new $100,000 Lincoln Swimming Pool and Bath House, the finest in the country for Negroes and the most modern in this section, located in Lincoln Park East St. Louis was dedicated Saturday crowning with success assiduous and dauntless efforts of a sterling Board of Park Commissioners over a period of ten years.

Building Is Ultra-Modern

The building is ultra-modern in every detail, from architecture to the scientific filtering and purifying system for the water. Every bit of the plans receive pains-taking consideration from the board even the plans being drawn up by them.

The place has lockers to accomodate 700 patrons and the pool has a capacity for 250 swimmers. There are more than a dozen employes under Ralph Rowlett, supervisor.

Every precaution is taken for sanitation, the structure being built of tile and concrete and the swimming arena having cork sound proof walls and ceiling. Before going into the pool each swimmer passes an inspection and and must take a soap shower.

There are four life guards employed in the place. Richard A. Ware, Eric Sauls, Hubert H. Hoosman and Miss Thelma Enbanks, the latter two being University of Illinois students.

The concern has its own policeman who is always on duty during swimming hours to assure order. There is also a matron, four distributors, two laundry clerks a handy man and a cashier.

The swimming pool is open each day from 1:30 p. m., and from 7:00 p. m., to 9:00 p. m.

It is planned to use the building as a community center during the late fall and winter months, when the swimming pool will be closed. The pool will be boarded over so that basketball and indoor baseball can be played. Provisions also will be made for holding meetings, dances and other community projects in the building. The baths will be open all the year round.

Mixed swimming (for both sex) is held on Sunday, Wendnesday and Saturday. Monday and Thursday afternoons and Tuesday and Friday nights for women, while Tuesday and Friday afternoons and Monday and Thursday nights are for men. Barely enough fees are charged to meet the expenses of operating the building.

The 15,000 Colored persons in E. St. Louis and 100,000 in St. Louis promise to afford the new crystal natorium abundant patronage.

Overcame Opposition

Among the fine men who championed the swimming pool plans against much opposition have been Park Board Commissioners Emmett R. Griffin, Dr. A. E. Ring, E. A. Cunningham and Steven V. Sexton. Two members of the board, D. S. Wynn and W. J. Miller bitterly opposed the project.

Sufficient funds for the collosal venture were not given in the original appropriation of $65,000 by the East St. Louis Bond issue, but though deligent efforts of the board funds saved on other municipal projects were transferred to this until sufficient was available to adequately meet all requirements.

Many whites were against the plans because the swimming pool in Jones Park for white cost only $35,000, not half as much as the Colored pool.

Colored people showed their appreciation for what was done for them by loyally supporting the commissioners in the election.

Hold Election

A big parade and speaking in which Mayor Doyle, city officials and leading colored and white citizens participated were included in the dedicatory exercises Saturday.

Prof. J. A. Gladden, Rev. John De Shields, Atty. Frank Summers, Levi Gilespie, Rev. J. A. Lampley, Rev. Shaw, Rev. L. C. Cotton, Zeb Johnson and John Eubanks were among the speakers on the program. Music was furnished by the Lincoln High School band.

Parks and Recreation - 1930

New Jersey

LEDGER
NEWARK, N. J.

MAR 27 1930

CITY TO THROTTLE GOUGING OWNERS, PRU SITES TO AID

City to Buy Park Site in 3rd Ward for Colored People

COMMISSION ON ALERT

Gouging Landlords Are Denounced For Bleeding Their Tenants

Property owners who force unsanitary living conditions upon many residents of the Third Ward, particularly the colored people, yesterday were blamed for fostering crime and immorality in the district by Commissioner Murray at the city commission meeting.

At the same time he declared he was investigating living quarters in the tenement district and if owners did not remedy conditions there he would see the places were closed.

"We have the power to do this," Commissioner Murray declared, "and we will exercise it. The greed of some of these people is disgusting. All they think of is what revenue they can get out of their house without thought of the poor devils who have to put up with the prevailing conditions."

Mayor Congleton then revealed that the Prudential Insurance Company had been acquiring property in the Third Ward to build one of its model apartment units. He said an announcement of this would come from the Prudential in a few days. He declared the acquisition of property would have been completed long before if some of the avaricious property owners in the district had not held out for exorbitant prices.

The mayor asserted the first unit to be built in the Third Ward would be for colored people.

Indictment of some property owners in the ward came in answer to members of the Socialist party who made another appearance before the city commission to protest against unemployment and bad housing conditions. Henry Green, who appeared with Henry J. Sutton, reminded the commission a survey had been made in the Third Ward 15 years ago and that nothing had been done about as a remedy. It was then Commissioner Murray spoke up.

Commissioner Gillen pointed out the commission was providing the district with all the recreation space it could. Hayes Park West is advancing rapidly, he said, and contracts for $31,467 were being left for improvements in the park site.

NEWARK, N. J.
NEWS

APR 29 1930

Recreation Council For Negroes Planned

Plans for organized recreation among colored men and boys of Newark were presented at the annual meeting of the Provisional Colored Branch of the Y. M. C. A. last night. Dr. William H. Washington, chairman of the branch, presided.

In presenting his plans for 1930-31, A. W. Hardy, executive secretary, pointed out that with the coming of better housing conditions and wholesome recreation facilities for young men and boys an undesirable element in the Third Ward is bound to move out.

Mr. Hardy explained that it had been his experience in large cities with a colored population that conditions improve whenever proper housing facilities supplanted the very poor districts and young men were given a chance to have wholesome recreation.

Mr. Hardy pointed out that a recreational council of churches and clubs of the Negroes will be formulated tomorrow night. This council will be under supervision of the Y. M. C. A. branch and will be the clearing house for athletic leagues and field meets among the men and boys. The program will be promoted in cooperation with the public school authorities.

Frederic W. Smith, vice president of the board of directors of the Y. M. C. A., said that the Y. M. C. A. has broadened its field. He showed that many thousands already have been assisted by the colored branch.

LEDGER
NEWARK, N. J

AUG 10 1930

RACIAL BAN BARRED AT ELIZABETH POOL

Natatorium Ordered to Admit Colored and Whites at Same Hours

Attendants at the William G. Dowd Natatorium in Elizabeth were instructed yesterday by the Board of Recreation Commissioners to permit use of the pool to colored boys and girls on the same basis and during the same hours as white children.

The ruling was made at a special meeting Friday at which complaints that colored boys and girls had been barred from the natatorium were made by the Elizabeth branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The commissioners were told that in several instances colored children had been refused admission to the pool, because they had applied on the "wrong day." When colored parents could not ascertain the days or hours set aside for their children they appealed to the society named for assistance.

NEW YORK TIMES

AUG 10 1930

ALL RACES TO USE POOL.

Order of Elizabeth Official Ends Row Over Alleged Discrimination.

Special to The New York Times.

ELIZABETH, N. J., Aug. 9.—The controversy which has raged here for the past ten days over the use of the William G. Dowd Natatorium, a new municipal swimming pool, by Negro children was believed settled today when James L. O'Neill, president of the Board of Recreation Commissioners, who investigated charges of discrimination, announced that use of the pool by all races will be permitted hereafter.

Mr. O'Neill announced the decision to a delegation of representatives from the Elizabeth branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

He told the group that the attendants at the pool will be instructed to admit negro boys and girls on the same basis and during the same hours as white children.

Parks and Recreation - 1930

New York

NEW YORK SUN

MAY 1 - 1930

KEEP PLAYGROUND AT COLUMBUS HILL

Report Will Be Suspended Is Declared Untrue.

There will be a temporary suspension of activities at the Columbus Hill Neighborhood Center while building repairs are in progress, but the statements that the district was to lose its center are entirely wihout foundation in fact, William Hodson, executive director of the Welfare Council of New York, said today.

As soon as these repairs have been completed the regular summer play school activities which have been carried on during the summer in the past will be opened and carried on this summer as usual. In the fall, Mr. Hodson said, the activities of the center will be resumed and continued throughout the winter along the same lines as formerly.

More than 800 Negro children have been participating in the school and club life of the center since its foundation nineteen years ago. Its teaching staff numbers forty-three, twenty-three of whom are volunteers and twenty paid workers.

"The rumor of the indefinite suspension was thoroughly discussed at a large meeting of the residents of the neighborhood in the Center last Tuesday, at which time Owen R. Lovejoy, the secretary of the Children's Aid Society, which is in charge of the administration of the work, explained definitely what was to be done for the future along the lines outlined above," said Mr. Hodson. "There was a complete understanding on the part of the whole group as to the future plans.

"I regret that in some way a tempest in a teapot has been stirred up over this matter and that an unfounded rumor has been the cause of worry to the residents of the neighborhood who have found the Center a very useful facility. Additional funds are needed by the Children's Aid Society to complete the budget for this year and to round out the budget for next year, and we have every hope and expectation that these funds will be forthcoming from the public."

N. Y. EVE. WORLD

APR 3 - 1930

ANONYMOUS GIFT OF $100 STARTS FUND FOR COLORED CAMP

Community Council Seeks $26,000 to Care for Negro Children

An anonymous gift of $100 toward the purchase and equipment of a summer camp for the colored children of Harlem and vicinity was reported this morning by Executive Secretary Frank Peer Beal of the Community Councils of the City of New York.

As stated in The Evening World on Friday last, the Community Councils' Committee to open recreation centres last year obtained for the Colonial and North Harlem Community Camp, Inc., a 100-acre camp site in Sullivan County, to involve the expenditure of about $26,000. It was understood that most of the purchase and equipment fund would have to be raised by public subscription, and George C. Loomis, the camp's secretary and treasurer, was named to head a special financing committee.

Initial support was given to the camp project by the General Committee of Community Councils, of which former Gov. Smith, Mayor Walker and Mrs. Charles Cary Rumsey are Honorary Chairmen, and Police Commissioner Whalen active Chairman. This committee is holding its annual benefit for the city-wide program at the Elks' Club, April 26 and is co-operating with the camp organization for colored children as a civic movement that has been somewhat neglected heretofore among the city's welfare activities.

NEW YORK JOURNAL

B. Lyons Letters

MAY 28 1930

3-ACRE PARK CHOSEN FOR BUILDING

Reasonable Rental, Recreational Centre for Working Class Provided in Plan.

The Society of Phipps Houses, founded by a gift of $1,000,000 by Henry Phipps to provide suitable housing for working people, plans to erect model housing facilities for several tenants on a tract at Sunnyside, Queens, which it purchased yesterday from the City Housing Corporation, according to an announcement by the trustees.

The new apartments will be erected on a three-acre private park and playground equipped with tennis courts, handball and basketball courts and a baseball field, and swings and sand boxes for small children.

THREE OTHER HOUSES.

This will be the fourth building to be erected by the society. The first three are in Manhattan, one in the East thirties, the other two for Negroes in the West sixties.

The selection of the site at Sunnyside for the fourth house is due to three factors, the trustees said:

The demand of working people for reasonably priced yet desirable homes, the need of both adults and children for some form of recreation and relaxation and the increasing difficulty of creating such an environment in Manhattan for persons of moderate means.

BUILD FROM OWN FUND.

"The accumulation of net income from the first three buildings over a period of years," the statement by the trustees said, "has reached a point where, out of their own funds, the trustees were enabled to buy the property at Sunnyside for $400,000; out of their own funds they will build on this property an apartmen building or buildings which in the judgment of the trustees will best serve the needs of the pesent time. The rents to be asked for apartments in this building will probably be only large enough to net the trustees 5½ per cent on the investment."

BRONX HOME NEWS

JUL 1 - 1930

Colored Beach to Open July 4 as Club If License Is Denied, Promoter Savs

Confirming rumors that he would open his Throggs Neck bathing beach for colored people without a license from the City, if the license is not granted by July 4, Solomon Riley, colored Harlem real estate man, last night told The Home News that preparations are under way to transfer the ownership of part of his beach properties to an incorporated club, which plans to open a cabaret this week-end.

The club will be known as the Douglas Beach Club, Inc., which Riley will control as president and principal financial backer. It will conduct dances and entertainments, in addition to making use of the beach, the owner asserted, and will not be subject to the decrees of the License Department, he holds.

The latest decision of the Harlem beach promoter was brought about by his impatience with the delay of the Health Department in making tests of the water at his beach, preparatory to sending a report to Commr. of Licenses Geraghty.

Following the hearing two weeks ago, when many Throggs Neck residents, members of the Throggs Neck Vigilance Committee, protested that the water at the foot of Vincent Ave., where the beach is located, is polluted, Commr. Geraghty said he would reserve his decision until he received a report from the Health Department.

Geraghty Awaits Report

Department inspectors have been testing the water on several occasions during the past week, but have not yet made their report to Geraghty, who cannot, in the face of the pollution charges, issue a permit until the waters at the beach get a clear bill of health, he says.

Riley said the inspectors had investigated the beach front at his property and had made a thorough search, under the direction of George Crolius, chairman of the Vigilance Committee, for the sewer which Crolius testified at the hearing emptied into Weir Creek just above Riley's beach. The investigation was unsuccessful, the colored man said, because the sewer they sought actually empties into the East River on the other side of Throggs Neck, as he maintained some time ago.

What the attitude of his neighbors will be is not certain. Last August when Riley attempted to open the beach after he first acquired it, great opposition was registered to the project, and it was feared that disorder would break out on the "inspection day" which Riley decided to hold.

A large number of police were assigned to the district to prevent outbreaks, but there was little evidence of high feeling against the beach project except for placards, bearing the warning, "Negroes Beware!" which were tacked up along the streets, but were torn down as the first police arrived.

About 300 whites and as many colored people mingled in the crowd that visited the beach and dance hall free of charge. Since that time Riley has improved the property.

Promoter Is Defiant

His action in turning part of the beach over to an incorporated club for use as an unlicensed cabaret, he confesses, is not calculated to soothe his white opponents.

"They wouldn't come out and say what their real objection was," he said, "but fought my beach with objections they didn't believe in at all. Now we'll see how they like a

cabaret. I'm going to use the property for some purpose; they can't deny me that."

Riley said that a woman living across the street from his buildings had told the Health Department inspectors her family had lived there and bathed in Weir Creek, directly opposite Edgewater Camp, for eight years, without ill effects to their health, and asked why the "real objection" to the camp was not brought out instead of a "fake" one.

Denying the imputation of his opponents that he purchased the property merely as a speculation and is using the possibility of a colored beach in the neighborhood as a threat to make those interested in Throggs Neck pay an exorbitant price for his property, Riley offered to sell the property at whatever price an independent referee decided was fair.

He said an inspection of his accounts would show that the $65,000 price which the Vigilance Committee considered "outrageous" was scarcely more than the cost of the property plus the improvements he had made.

The accusation grew out of the similarity of Riley's present project to two others in which it was generally believed he gained a considerable profit by selling property on which he advertised he would open beaches for colored people.

SYRACUSE, N. J.
JOURNAL

JUN 5 - 193

SURVEYING NEGROES HERE TO BETTER OPPORTUNITIES

Ernest G. Atwell of New York is in Syracuse this week to direct a survey of the negro population of the city, for the purpose of finding out the social welfare, industrial and recreational opportunities offered negroes of this community. The Syracuse committee includes Mrs. Frederick W. Hazard, Rev. Dr. Frederick W. Betts, Almus Olver, Miss M. Lesley West, Mrs. William A. Mackenzie, Walter R. Stone and T. Aaron Levy. Mr. Atwell represents the Playground and Recreational Association of America.

Urban League Playground Given Colorful Label of "Green Pastures"

Juvenile Paradise, Dedicated as Mecca for Harlem Tiny Tims, Has "God" of Famous Drama as Main Speaker at Exercises

Following the dedication Thursday afternoon of the new Urban League playground into which the plot of ground directly behind the league building at 202 West 136th street has been transformed, pre-school Harlem kiddies now have their own "Green Pastures," as the playground has been named after the Broadway success of that name.

Richard B. Harrison, who plays the part of God in the Connolly play, and a group of the younger "angels" of the cast attended the dedication exercises. The cement-paved playground is enclosed by an old-fashioned garden fence of wood painted a bright apple green with a black border. Tiny cedar trees in green boxes are placed within a few feet of each other around this fence.

At the west end of the playground are two sand piles with a shower between them. Facing the play space is a long sun-porch at the rear of the Urban League building, which is covered by an awning, also green and furnished with wicker furniture where the parents may sit and watch their children amuse themselves.

Mrs. Elsa Butler Groves presided at Thursday's dedication exercises. Aside from Mr. Harrison, the speakers were the Rev. William Lloyd Imes, pastor, St. James' Presbyterian Church, and Arthur C. Holden, chairman of the executive committee of the New York Urban League. Mrs. Alice Davis Crawford, director of the Dunbar Garden Apartments' playground, accompanied by a group of children from the Dunbar playground, attended the exercises. Mrs. Crawford sang a group of spirituals.

Willmay Davis and Viola Lewis, both juvenile members of "The Green Pastures" cast, sang "Mean to Me," while "Jazzlips" Richardson, Jr., Howard Washington, and Reginald Blythewood of the same company executed a song-and-dance number entitled "St. Louis Blues." Other children from the same play who danced were: Verden Perdue, Freddie Longshaw, Wilbur Cohen, Margaret Baumgarten, and Margaret Thrower.

The playground is to be conducted in connection with the Urban League play-school, which is held at the branch daily for the child of pre-school age from 9 a. m. until 5 p. m. The school and playground are under the direction of Miss Anna Rappaport. Assisting Miss Rappaport are Miss Carolyn J. Dublin, social worker, and Miss Derosette E. Watson.

The committee of administration is composed of the following members: Mesdames Elsa Butler Groves, Anna Jones Robinson, Edgar N. Parks, Abbie Porter Leland, Frederick B. Stein and Lucy Retting. Mrs. Retting and Mrs. Stein are members of the Child Study Association of America.

NEGROES ENTER THE DAILY NEWS SWIMMING DERBY

Interest In Aquatics Increase At New Swim Pool

NEW YORK— (ANP) for the first time in the history of the Daily News swim derby, an annual event in New York, colored entrants participated last Sunday. Due largely to the convenience of the magnificent new Lincoln Swimming Pool in 146th Street, the colored entrants are being received.

Prior to the opening of the Lincoln Recreation Center, there was little interest shown in acquatic sports, save for a spasmodic mention of Pauline Jackson. But now, there is a new and lively interest in water sports with the Lincoln Pool playing a leading role in the development of the healthy sport.

On Friday, eliminations were held at the Lincoln Pool with some splendid showings on the part of the contestants. There was fancy diving worthy of the best, snappy races, and a general all-round interest which betokens a prosperous future for the pool.

Here, those who are unable to swim find instruction of highest type. Not only is the recreation center a swimming pool, it conducts amateur boxing under the immediate supervision of Roy Morse, former national sprint champion. Moore, a lieutenant in the 269th ,is bending every effort to make these amateur events an attractive feature of the pool and has the backing of the Salem Crescent Athletic Club and the sanction of the A. A.U. in promoting the affairs.

This encouragement, along aquatic and pugilistic endeavor, will do much to advance the colored candidates in both lines and bring new talent and blood to classes which need it.

ALBANY, N. Y.
KNICKERBOCKER PRESS

SEP 7 - 193

ALBANY NEGROES MAY FORM TENNIS CLUB THIS FALL

Project Is Outcome of Activities During Summer.

BAKER BEHIND MOVE

Executive Secretary of Inter-Racial Council Rouses People.

The proposed formation of a Negro tennis club, another troop of Negro Grl Scouts, and continuation of numerous other athletic and social activities during the fall are outgrowths of enthusiasm aroused during the summer, according to J H. Baker, Jr., Negro college graduate and executive secretary of the Albany Inter-Racial Council.

A brilliantly played finals tennis match in the Negro inter-city tournament at Washington park last Tuesday developed eagerness for the permanent tennis club, Mr Baker said.

Ralph Baker, of Albany, defeated Taylor Thomas, of Troy, in this final. Previously Nellie Johnson had won the women's singles, defeating Mrs. G. Mason, of Troy.

Each Saturday during the summer, Mr. Baker instructed numerous novices at tennis at Washington park. There also were swimming classes conducted at bath 3 with an average of forty persons attending each Wednesday night C. B. Woolard and H. P. Winchester were instructors in this branch of the council's activity.

Another highlight of the summer for Negroes was the securing of vacation facilities for forty-two children and two mothers at a thirty-five acre farm owned and operated by a Negro family near Ballston Spa. An appeal to members of the Council resulted in prompt subscription of the money necessary to finance the project.

The City Charity Department and Fort Orange Council of Boy Scouts also assisted. Tents and equipment were loaned by the Shea Awning Company and the Capital District Typothetae.

Officers of the Council are: Harold P. Winchester, president; Aaron J. Oilver, first vice president; the Rev. W. W. Peck, second vice president; Samuel E. Aronowitz, secretary; C. H. Van Vranken, treasurer and Mr. Baker.

Parks and Recreation - 1930

New York

NEW YORK JOURNAL

SEP 2 - 1930

Harlem's Children

They Need Outings, Too.

Copyright, 1930, New York Evening Journal, Inc. Registered U. S. Patent Office.

Hundreds of negro children have been waiting all Summer for their turn to spend a few days at the camp established for them recently in Sullivan County. Unless funds are forthcoming to send them, they will not be able to attend. What such a disappointment means to these boys and girls from congested Harlem is more easily imagined than described.

The camp is also short of equipment. It has, for instance, only one stove on which meals must be prepared for more than a hundred hungry youngsters. It lacks facilities for amusement on rainy days. It does not even have a radio set.

The city has long neglected its negro inhabitants, and only of late have private relief agencies begun to think of them as they have of the whites. The negro children's camp in Sullivan County is one of the most praiseworthy efforts in their behalf that has yet been made. It is under the auspices of the Community Councils, and donations of money or articles may be sent to the Colonial and North Harlem Community Camp, Room 2224, Municipal Building.

Anyone who wishes to support a worth-while undertaking will find this a most deserving one, and contributions to it will bring happiness to children who are too often forgotten in our charities.

Parks and Recreation – 1930

North Carolina

Park To Be Opened For Negro Children

A playground, sponsored by the High Point Park and Playground commission for negro children in the city, will be opened on the campus of the William Penn high school Monday morning, July 28, it was announced today. Professor George F. Allen, supervisor of music in the negro schools of the city, will be the director and is already meeting with genuine acceptance on the part of playground patrons throughout the city. The playground will be open to both adults and children, the ages ranging from two to 40 years.

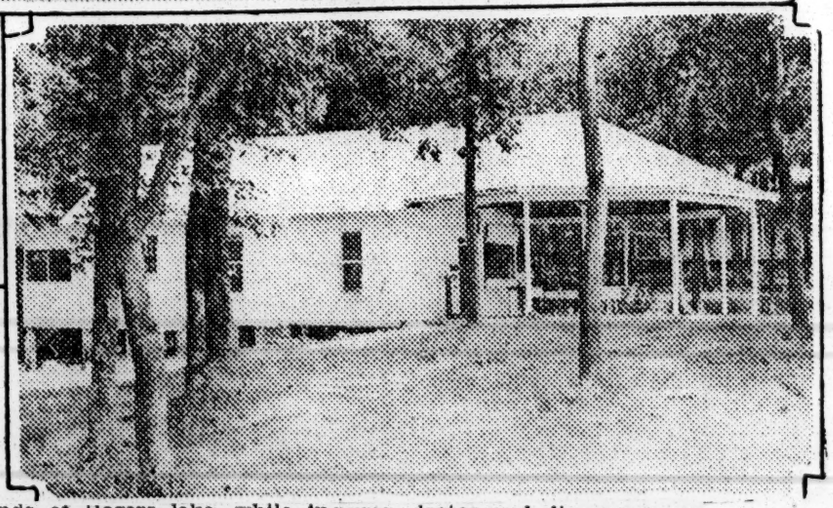
Parks and Recreation- 1930

Ohio.

COLUMBUS, O.
DISPATCH

AUG 10 193(

Negro Mothers and Children Enjoy Camp



ROGERS LAKE CAMP, near Chesterville, has been the out-of-doors summer home for more than 500 Negro mothers and their children during the hot summer months.

It is the only camp of its kind to accommodate the poor of that race in Franklin county, eing instituted four years ago by the Godman guild, agency of the community fund, to fill the urgent need for a Negro camp and to keep the children from crowded, humble homes out of the streets during vacation time.

One of the pictures shows a group of children in rowboats as they prepare to make the rounds of Rogers lake, while in another one sees several youngsters enjoying the wide open spaces of recreation field. A third photo is a close-up of one of the numerous cottages, while the fourth gives a general idea of the attractive type of structures that have bene erected.

The camp staff, largely volunteer, rates among the finest in the country, and a graduate nurse, doctor and dispensary are provided to care for the ill or convalescing.

Negro women from Columbus and Franklin county, unable to furnish vacations for themselves and their children, are invited to Rogers Lake camp to spend 12 days of rest, good food and expert care in the clean, sturdy cottages that border the lake.

Trained directors have planned an educational program. Music, games, camp fires, dramatics, hikes, swimming, boating, campcraft, nature lore and handicrafts are among the activities in the campers' day at Rogers Lake.

Mothers with as many as a dozen boys and girls have spent their first real holidays at this camp.

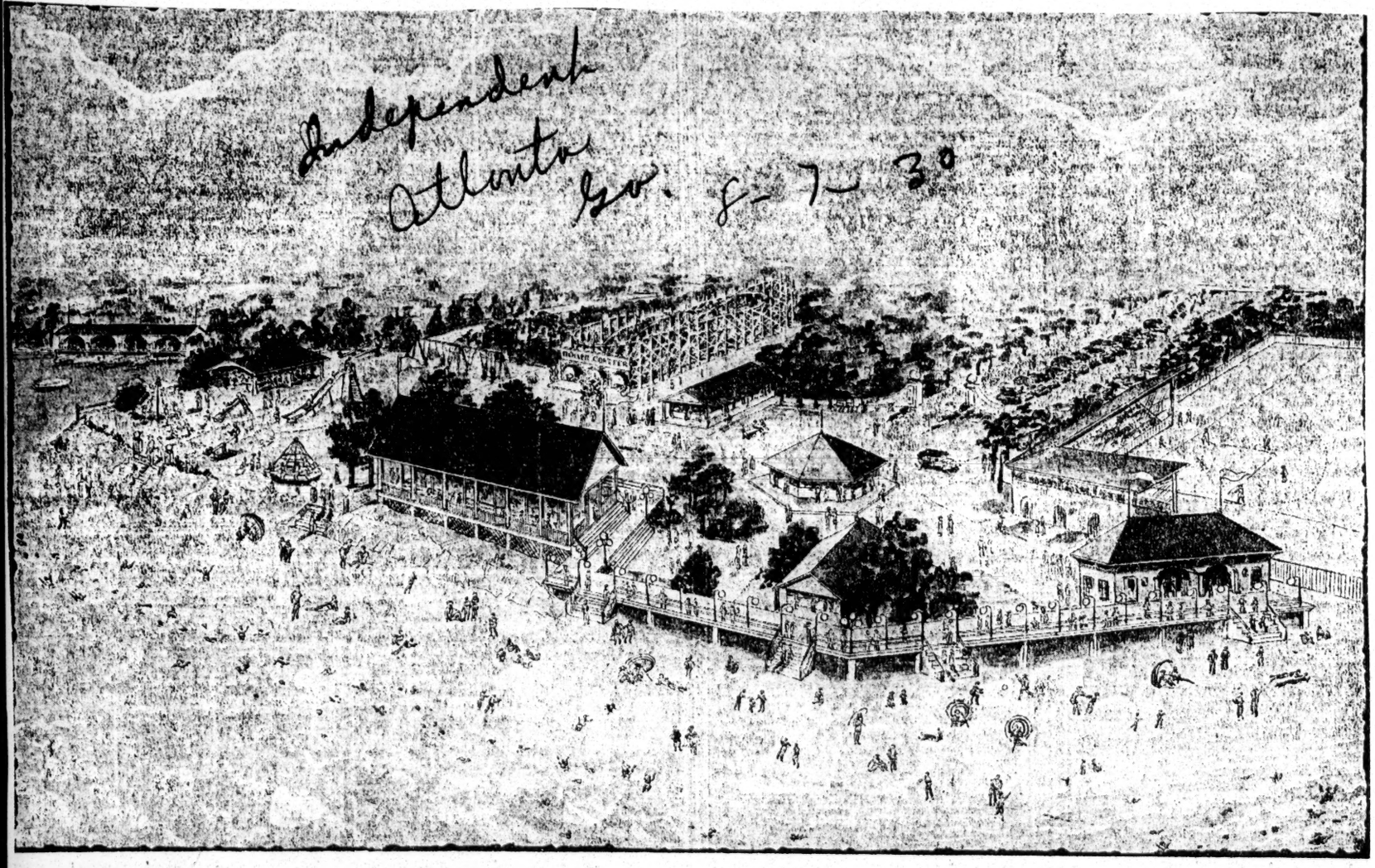
Counsel for mothers is part of the daily routine, and cleanliness is encouraged by merit banners awarded the tidiest cottage each week.

The program for the children sponsored by the directors of this camp is to create a "margin in futures" by promoting health, education, recreation, industry and character, and to afford many tired mothers the first real vacation they have ever enjoyed.

Parks and Recreation - 1930

South Carolina.

Independent
Atlanta Ga. 8-7-30



THE COOPER RIVER AMUSEMENT PARK—Located at historical Charleston, S. C. The only exclusive colored Play Ground, Park in the Southeast, where colored people can gather for a grand outing and enjoy surf bathing. The finest Dance Pavilion to be found anywhere, also Athletic Field for baseball, football and boxing. Amusements of all kinds. WATCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR BIG LABOR DAY CELEBRATION.

GEORGIA RAILROAD

F. L. NELSON District Passenger Agent, 203-210 Healey Building

Anderson, S. C. Mail
Wednesday, July 23, 19[illegible]

NEGRO SCHOOL TO CLOSE ON FRIDAY

Church School at Thompson Centennial Accomplishes Much.

(Contributed.)

The Daily Vacation church school operated under the auspices of Thompson Centennial M. E. church, colored, for three weeks, will close its session July 25.

The school has had the co-operation and endorsement of the public and has been well patronized by all denominations of our group in the city. The total enrollment was 80. The teachers numbered eight. The school was divided into beginners, primary, junior and intermediate departments and the periods were divided into worship. Bible memory drill, games, story telling and suprvised play.

The closing program at 8:30 o'clock Friday evening by the little people will be intensely interesting and instructive. Bible gems, sacred readings, music, dramatization and hand work will compose the evening service and exhibition.

All of the service rendered by the eight faithful and competent teachers was given freely, yet the school incurred some expense which has to be cared for, therefore, we are asking each person attending the closing to pay a small fee to cover the financial obligations made.

The pastor, Rev. John C. Gibbes, the teachers and the pupils extend a cordial invitation to the general public to attend the closing exercises.

Parks and Recreation - 1930

Tennessee

MEMPHIS, TENN.
EVENING APPEAL

FEB 11 1930

NEW AUDITORIUM TO OPEN TONIGHT

Dedication Ceremonies of Negroes' $35,000 Structure Will Be Held in Church Park

Mayor Watkins Overton, city commissioners and officials of the Memphis Park Commission will take part in the dedication of the new $35,000 auditorium for negroes in Church Park at 8 p.m. today.

Opening of the new auditorium will provide Memphis negroes a suitable and attractive place for their activities. The building is of steel and concrete construction. The building is well equipped.

A. L. Parker, park commissioner, will open the program with an address. Representatives of leading negro civic and religious organizations will give short addresses tonight. The Rev. T. O. Fuller will accept the auditorium on behalf of Memphis negroes.

Pullman Porters' Band will provide music. The negro playgrounds will have their representatives take part in the program. The new auditorium faces Beale Avenue and will serve as a civic center for negroes of this city.

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean - Afro
Sunday, August 31, 1930

Negro Swimming Pool at Lake Lomond to Open

Lake Lomond, formerly known as Setter Lake, four miles out on the Hyde's Ferry pike, will be open as a negro bathing beach Sunday, it has been announced by Ernest Bell, president of the operating company.

Swimming, dancing, barbecue, and refreshments, it was announced, will be attractions at the beach Lazor Day with the dancing from 4 to 8:30 p. m. the music provided by "Ten Tennesseans".

"It seems to me that a swimming pool for Negroes should be built in one of the Colored parks, where it would should be easily accessible and by all means in a Colored community. I would be in favor of the city and county building such a pool as a joint project."

Latimore declares that he is going to fight the injustice against his Race and the project which he is managing. He has already started a suit in the district court.

TENN. WHITES SEEK TO CLOSE ROSAZETTA BATHING BEACH

Defender
7-12-30
Chicago Ill.

CHATTANOOGA, July 11.—Racial prejudices were viewed as the motive behind the attempt of local whites to close Rosazetta lake, Race amusement park and bathing beach here, following a statement made by R. E. Kelley, owner of Bel Air club, a white beach located just below the Race park on the same river.

Officials, however, give as the reason that the water is unsanitary in the Race beach. "If this is true," Wyatt Latimore, manager of Rosazetta park, pointed out, "then the water in the white beach is equally so as both bathe in the same river.

"The whites have objected to the Race beach because the water flows down to them after the patrons of Rosazetta beach have bathed in it," Latimore said.

Nevertheless, following an investigation made by Roy E. Morton, sanitary engineer, the water was condemned as unsanitary and the beach ordered closed.

Judge Cummings, in reply to complaints of the white group about the alleged nuisance created by the Race resort, declared that he would recommend an investigation.

Parks and Recreation - 1930

Texas

EMANCIPATION PARK

Informer

No more concrete argument for the creation of more parks and playgrounds for Negroes is to be found than Emancipation Park on Dowling Street which, since its renovation, has become the Mecca for gatherings and great throngs of children and grown-ups in search of diversion and the profitable use of their leisure time. Tennis courts are in constant use; the lawn is always filled with those who discuss the topics of the day as they relax. The wading pool is filled with happy youngsters. Periodically the auditorium is used by organizations which seek a meeting place.

8-30-30

Time was when this place had no such reputation or patronage. But with the beautification and improvement which has been done in recent months, it has become a place of beauty and a joy to the whole neighborhood. And more than that, it is a fine advertisement for the city of Houston which, in so far as it has made this place available for its Negro citizens, has the right to feel that it is becoming progressive. Houston Texas

But a single park will not suffice for a whole group of 60,000 which is scattered all through the city. There should be other parks and playgrounds. And on the basis of per capita use in proportion to the dollars expended, certainly the city authorities cannot argue that their refusal to provide other parks could be on the ground that their experiences with Emancipation Park have been unfortunate.

AMERICAN
AUSTIN, TEX.

JUN 7 - 1930

Negro Play Work

J. M. Pollard, negro staff member of the Playground and Recreation association of America, will work with the Austin department of recreation under the supervision of James A. Garrison, superintendent of recreation, to develop recreation for negroes in Austin.

Pollard plans a training course for recreation supervisors for the Rosewood park.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX
LIGHT

JUL 6 - 1930

Negro Playground Course Slated

A summer program of classes in tennis, dramatics, swimming and handicraft will open Monday at the Walton negro playground at Center and Potomac streets, according to announcement Saturday by Miss Melba Price, secretary of the city recreation department.

Swimming classes will be held at 10 a. m. on Mondays and Thursdays. Classes in handicraft will be held at 5 p. m. each Wednesday. A story and dramatic hour will be held at 3 p. m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Beginners' tennis will be taught at 4 p. m. daily.

R. R. Davenport is instructor and J. W. Hemmings is director at the playground.

EXPRESS
SAN ANTONIO, TEX.

JUL 1 - 1930

R. L. BASS NAMED RECREATION HEAD

Succeeds John Hansard Recently Released — New Chief Rubiola's Choice

Robert L. Bass Jr. Monday was appointed superintendent of the city recreation department at a meeting of the city recreation board and Park Commissioner Jacob Rubiola. Bass, who has been employed for two years in the department in the capacity of athletic director, succeeds John Hansard, who was released June 1, along with other employes of the department due to budget cuts.

The recreation board had previously recommended Hansard's reappointment. Koger Stokes, president of the board, said Monday that the board had unanimously approved Rubiola's selection of Bass.

"We have always considered Hansard's work as satisfactory," he said, "but since Commissioner Rubiola, who is the final authority of the department, desired Bass' appointment we are satisfied. We believe he is qualified to hold the position."

Bass is now attending the annual school of the Playground and Recreation Association of America in session in New York. He will return here July 5. He is a graduate of Brackenridge Senior School and the University of Texas.

Victor Schultz, an employe of the department, was selected by the board and Rubiola to fill the vacancy caused by Bass' promotion. Miss Mary Wilson, director of playgrounds; Roland Kupper, director of aquatic sports, and Miss Melba Price, office secretary, were all reappointed to their positions.

The summer recreation budget, which runs until Sept. 15, was set at $4,300 per month. This will provide for supervised play at 14 playgrounds for the summer period. Twelve of the playgrounds will be for use of white children and two for negro children. Lions Field will be supervised and operated directly by the recreation department, it was decided at the meeting.

Parks and Recreation - 1930

Virginia

VIRGINIAN-PILOT
NORFOLK, VA.

JAN 26 1930

MAYOR CONFERS WITH OPPONENTS OF NEGRO BEACH

Discussion With Representatives of Property Owners At Ocean View Preliminary To Conference With Councilmen Tomorrow

PROBLEM'S SOLUTION SOUGHT BY BOTH SIDES

Representatives of property owners in the Ocean View section, who have protested against location of a Negro bathing beach on the Ocean View side of the Pennsylvania terminals at Little Creek, will confer with the City Council tomorrow at noon in an effort to have the Council rescind its action in the matter and change the location of the resort.

A committee of four, representing the Ocean View section, conferred for an hour with Mayor Tyler yesterday, preliminary to the conference tomorrow. They were M. W. Talbot, S. Burnell Bragg, Fay Garrett and Joseph Morris.

"They were not unfriendly," said Mayor Tyler, "but they simply expressed the feeling that the bathing beach should be located on the other side of the Pennsylvania terminals."

A meeting of 100 or more of those who are protesting the location of the Negro beach at Little Creek was held at Ocean View Thursday night and a committee was named to prepare the necessary papers to submit the Negro resort question to the people in a referendum, in the event that the Council does not see fit to rescind its action in appropriating money to locate the resort at Little Creek.

"I told the committee," said the Mayor, "just why I felt it would be inadvisable, from the point of view of Ocean View itself, to take such action."

Fully Conscientious

Mayor Tyler indicated that he felt those who had conferred with him were fully conscientious in their attitude in the matter, and that they were making a sincere effort to come to an agreement with the city authorities for a solution of the problem.

The Negro bathing beach now has developed into what appears to be a rather imposing political issue. Regardless of what action the Council may take in the matter, following the conference tomorrow, many believe that the action already taken will figure in the forthcoming campaign for seats in the City Council. The Negro bathing beach already is occupying a foremost position in the discussions of the forthcoming campaign.

Mayor Tyler did not indicate yesterday, after the conference, just what effect the meeting may have had. The conference went over in considerable detail all the objections which had been voiced hitherto in the matter. The proposed referendum was discussed, and Mayor Tyler advised the committee that he did not believe such action would be to the best interests of the Ocean View section.

The fact that the Council during the last four or five years has concentrated its attention on the Ocean View development also was pointed out by Mayor Tyler. He intimated that in the event of action such as that contemplated by the Ocean View residents, the Council might not be favorably inclined to further improvements in that section.

ONLY 1 MEMBER OF COUNCIL WAS OPPOSED TO IT

Journal and Guide

1,500 People Attended Public Hearing At City Hall

1-18-30

LONG FIGHT ENDS

Norfolk, Va.

Lawyers Diggs, Harrison and Mrs. Walke Spoke For Project

With the passage of an ordinance making possible a seashore recreation center for Norfolk's 70,000 Negro citizens, City Council Tuesday successfully climaxed an effort begun several years ago to provide the city's large colored population with a healthful outlet for amusement.

Individuals, organizations, and the local press, of both races, united to secure legislation by Council which would make the project a reality. Some scattered vehement opposition, mainly from misguided and uninformed white residents of sections somewhat in the vicinity of the beach location and from persons and groups selfishly interested in other sites, began to be expressed, reaching an intense stage at the public hearing preceding the regular meeting of Council Tuesday afternoon

Kind of Objections

Arguments used against the beach project were a rehash of these given public airing previous to the meeting at which Council passed the legislation making provisions for the establishment of a beach. They ran the gamut of the reasons typical of persons arguing against all proposals based on legal right and moral and civic necessity. "Our property will become valueless," it was alleged, "OUR beautiful shore drive will become a spectacle," 'they pay only negligible taxes," "give them another site, isolated and segregated," "we have nothing against our darkies,'" white opponents continued as the opposition degenerated into rank appeals to prejudice, "but we can't have this 'nigger' resort in that section."

But the wind was taken from the sails of these points even before they found expression again at the public hearing.

And then at Tuesday's public hearing, before approximately 1,500 white and colored adherents and opponents of the proposed measure, Attorney J. Eugene Diggs, brilliant local barrister of color in an eloquent address to the Council effectively climaxed support of the project and phrased colored Norfolk's reasons for wanting the beach facilities.

A tall man of medium build, of commanding personality and dignified appearance, veteran of a quarter century of legal battles, he forsook the customary courts of justice wherein he ordinarily defends the interests of clients and went instead before the representatives of the people of Norfolk, to advocate, in deeply moving, logical, eloquent, and courageous terms, the necessity and justice in establishing this water front recreation center in a city which provides over a score of public parks and countless private beaches for whites.

Lawyer Diggs arose with dignity, addressed the Mayor and Councilmen in precise English, and expressed in his opening statements his "amazement at the speeches made by white men who just preceded me." He wondered, he said, in just what regard Norfolk Negroes were really held, after hearing the language in which they had been referred to.

Dramatic, Convincing Plea

He then launched into one of the most dramatic and convincing addresses any local audience ever heard. Except for one white heckler in the gallery there was silence from both white and colored hearers, that deepened as he progressed. His evident sincerity and masterful presentation, won the respectful attention of even those hundred or so who previously had, by cheering, stamping, and applauding points raised i nopposition, shown their intense objection to any favorable action by Council.

When the local colored high school was proposed, Mr. Diggs explained, the same arguments were raised in protest; that property would depreciate in value But time had, he declared, shown the fundamental weakness in that argument.

He then pointed out that no court of justice in the country would sanction as legal the barring of Negroes from the 1,000 foot municipal beach at Ocean View or the public golf links here. Negroes had waived their rights in this connection, he suggested, for the sake of living in peace.

"The Negro has," he continued 'waived his rights for this reason so long that many of you have come to believe that he has no rights. But I am wondering if the time has not come when the colored man will have to stop waiving his basic citizenship rights!'

Mayor Extends Time

The gallery heckler reminded the Mayor that Mr. Diggs' time was up whereupon the Mayor quietly arose and stated that the time of the speaker had been extended to fifteen minutes.

The speaker then pointed to Buckroe Beach, located near Hampton, as the standing refutation that white and black cannot live and play side by side.

During the twenty-five years or more of the beach's existence, he reminded his hearers, there had never been any friction, although the two resorts were immediately adjacent.

"Many of the previous speakers," he said later, have referred to the new Shore Drive as 'Our' drive. But whose drive is it?" he demanded. "You know as well as I know," he answered, "that it is as much mine as yours, and no more mine than it is anybody's from anywhere who wishes to use it"

With a final appeal to the Council in which he stated that "an enlightened public consicence demands favorable action on the proposed beach," he concluded one of the most convincing arguments ever heard here. There was an unexpected applause from many of the white group and thunderous applause from the hundreds of colored hearers, who realized that they had just listened to a masterful statement of their case before the bar of public opinion and the official representatives of all the people of Norfolk.

Lawyer Harrison Speaks

Lawyer J. M. Harrison, another leading local attorney, followed Mr. Diggs, making a strong appeal for passage of the measure. Adherents of the proposal were of the opinion that Mr. Harrison made his strongest point when he produced a letter from the City Mangaer of Newport News in refutation of the claim made that no such beach municipally owned, was located on either the Atlantic or Pacific Coasts. The letter that Mr. Harrison read stated that Newport News had set aside four acres on Hampton Roads as a recreation spot for colored people and the venture had proven entirely a success.

Mrs. Walke Favors Beach

Following him came Mrs. Frank Anthony Walke, prominent local white woman who insisted that counter-proposals for another site were of no value since objections would be brought by some to any location. She added her support to the statement that Buckroe Beach was an answer to the charge that disorder might result.

Following Mrs. Walke's speech the public hearing was adjourned and Council retired to the Council chambers in the City Hall

Butler Sole Objector

The proposed ordinance was then read in full and the roll called for voting. Councilman Butler declared that the proposition had given him quite a bit of concern, and although he was not unmindful of the city's responsibility to the Negro, in view of the opposition to the beach and in view of the heavy investments made by white people at Ocean View, he was in favor of remanding the proposal for a beach to a committee with instruction to find another site. He voted against the project.

Without comment Councilmen Herbert, Robertson, and Wood, and Mayor Tyler voted yes. With that the first definite step toward a beacch for Norfolk's 70,,000 Negroes was taken, ,and Council, under the provisions of the ordinance, will proceed to purchase the 14 acres of land adjoining the Pennsylvania Railorad terminals at Little Creek on the Chesapeake Bay.

Several white women and men who came from the public hearing to the regular Council meeting were indignatly expressing their objections even after the vote and making insinuations that political revenge would be sought. There was talk of a referendum on the ordinance. A petition has been prepared to be circulated, asking the Pennsylvania Railroad, from whom the city it to acquire the beach site, not to sell it for this purpose. Council appropriated $14,841 to buy the land. It was the opinion of several colored and white people interviewed that the opposition to the beach was really limited, although intense among certain elements, and that nothing will really come of threats to thwart the action taken Tuesday by City Council.

The Council's plans for developing the beach are not complete. Whether it will be leased to some private enterprise for development and subleased for operation, remains to be determined.

VIRGINIAN-PILOT
NORFOLK, VA.

JAN 14 1930

A Plea For Justice

The white population of Norfolk numbers approximately 120,000. Suppose this entire population were denied access to any of the bay and ocean beaches during the hot months of summer. It is a monstrous supposition, but suppose it were so. What would the 120,000 people of this community think about such a state of affairs? What would the medical fraternity have to say about the compatibility of such a denial with the maintenance of the public health? What would the social agencies have to say? How long would the people tolerate such an exclusion from Nature's priceless

reservoir of health and recreation? How long would it be before the Government would be compelled by the pressure of public opinion to force its way through the barriers that shut the beaches off from public enjoyment, and make this recuperative resource generally available?

One has only to ask oneself a few questions like these to perceive the gross injustice involved in the complete denial of this community's extensive beach resources to the 70,000 residents of Norfolk who belong to the Negro race. These people suffer from the discomforts of hot weather even more acutely than the white population, because their living quarters are more congested. Their houses have fewer windows and fewer bathrooms. Their streets have poorer drains, fewer shade trees and more dust. They can not escape to the shade and solace of nearby parks, because the entire public park system, with negligible exceptions, although paid for and maintained by taxing both races, is reserved for the use of the white race alone. These are facts and however we may explain them we can not dispute them. The indisputable truth is that the very population element that is most cruelly in need of a means for escaping from the heated city to a cooling beach, has up to the present moment been denied any such means of recreation, whereas the population element whose need for this escape is less pressing has at its disposal private and public beaches without number, together with a vast bay and ocean frontage that has never been used since the discovery of America and is not likely to come into use for another half century.

The Virginian-Pilot affirms that there is injustice in such a state of affairs and that a commanding moral obligation rests on the government of the city of Norfolk and on the white population from which this government derives its mandate, to correct it. It is beyond correction by private initiative because private initiative is paralyzed by timidity and fear. It can be corrected only by the fair-minded white population of Norfolk acting collectively through their government. In the ordinance that will come up today for a public hearing, the Council is seeking to put an end to an intolerable discrimination and to promote the establishment of a recreational utility that will repay this community a thousand-fold in improved health, in improved racial relations, in improved civic harmony, and—as important as any other consideration—in the consciousness of a wrong at last righted.

We Are Grateful

COLORED citizens who attended the hearing before City Council last Tuesday afternoon came away with a deep sense of admiration for the courage and enlightened social consciences of Messrs. Tyler, Wood, Herbert and Robertson, whose statesmanlike action made the much needed bathing beach a reality, and with a deep sense of pity, and even shame, for the howling mob of six or seven hundred misguided and prejudice ridden whites who all but reenacted the scene that furnished the background for Pontius Pilate's court when Christ was the defendant. It is almost inconceivable, that this late in the twentieth century, some members of the *superior* race can come so near to reverting to savagery.

That Council, voting four to one, (Mr. Butler opposing) chose to follow the dictates of duty and decency, in the face of such an emotional and hysterical demonstration, is something upon which Norfolk may congratulate itself. With men of such courage, vision and sense of justice at the helm the city should feel proud of its government.

Colored citizens of Norfolk and, the JOURNAL AND GUIDE believes, a large percentage of white citizens, are deeply grateful for the final action of Council in this matter. They approve the judgment of Council in the selection of an appropriate site on deep water, affording colored citizens a recreation center on a plane with others enjoyed exclusively by their white neighbors.

They are grateful also for the unstinted support accorded this measure by the *Virginian-Pilot* and the *Ledger-Dispatch*. Without their support it would have been much more difficult indeed to have brought the matter to a successful conclusion.

And among the many dramatic situations that characterized this hearing was the brave action of a courageous little woman, Mrs. Frances Anthony Walke, who was there to be heard, and who was heard, in support of the project. No braver figure, nor one more keenly sensible of the need of social justice, adorns the ranks of Southern white womanhood.

The tremendously convincing argument of J. Eugene Diggs was the outstanding feature of the hearing. It was a distinct credit to the race and to the colored members of the bar. There was a wide distinction between the dignified logic of his plea and the rancorous and unreasonable arguments of the dozen who spoke in opposition.

Thanks are also due James M. Harrison, another member of the bar, who, mixing humor with logic, made an effective plea, as he always does when duty calls him to the defense of the common cause.

The bathing beach is now on its way to utilization and will be ready when the hot days of summer descend upon the heretofore beachless 70,000 of a city surrounded by beaches.

City Council Takes High Ground

IT is a distinct credit to the four members of City Council, Messrs. Tyler, Robertson, Wood, and Herbert, who voted for the bathing beach that they have refused to be stampeded by threats of political reprisal openly made by opponents of the measure. Political reprisal, even to the point of political, social, and economic assassination, is the destructive weapon used upon any white man in Southern public life who dares to do the right thing by the politically emasculated Negro, and it is refreshing and stimulating and inspiring to find that Norfolk has men in its Council who have the conscience and the courage to think and act above political self interest.

The JOURNAL AND GUIDE can recall no public utterances of a man invested with the high responsibilities of government and the correct sense of public trust that more adequately answers and rebukes a mob-minded public sentiment, such as has characterized the oppositon to this project, than the burning words of Mayor Tyler when he said to the committee that besieged Council on Monday:

> "The city of Norfolk has 4.7 miles of beach within its borders. We have 70,000 Negroes, and they have not a foot of water front.
>
> "No white man who is fair in mind can say that we have a right to usurp all the ocean, all of the parks, and all of the playgrounds for the exclusive use of white people. You can't justify it in a court of God or man."

That is a just and appropriate rebuke to an unreasoning opposition—we say unreasoning, because it sets up property rights above human rights, and arrogantly presumes to dictate that land now unoccupied and undeveloped and belonging to a railroad corporation which could put it to any uses it saw fit, shall not be acquired by the municipality and dedicated to public use.

The effort of Council to meet the needs of the Negro population, because the Negroes themselves have voluntarily withdrawn from public parks and beaches in the interest of racial peace and harmony, is commendable, and the JOURNAL AND GUIDE believes will be sustained by an overwhelming majority of Norfolk citizens if it comes to a test. Their voluntary withdrawal has, as J. Eugene Diggs pointed out at the public hearing, created in the minds of a class of white people habits of thinking which seem to lead them to believe that Negroes have no rights in these public parks and beaches. It is, as Mr. Diggs said, a matter of serious doubt if the Negroes' restrained and passive attitudes have gained us anything, and if this high-minded and statesmanlike action on the part of Council to compensate for the Negroes' good citizenship is thwarted by a prejudice-blinded few who have future land profits to speculate upon, then it will be time for us to establish by existing legal processes our rights in public beaches and parks.

LEDGER-DISPATCH
NORFOLK, VA.

MAR 23 1930

NEGRO BEACH SITES BEING CONSIDERED

Council's Special Park Committee Not Yet Ready To Make Report

City council's special park committee composed of Councilman E. J. Robertson and J. D. Wood is giving consideration to anumber of sites which have been suggested for the proposed Negro bathing beach in case it is not established just west of Little Creek as authorized early in January. Negotiations are in progress for acquiring the property from the Pennsylvania Railroad, comprising 14.84 acres, for which an appropriation of $14,841 was authorized.

The principal alternate site which has been suggested is a tract of about 50 acres of the Bradford estate just east of Little Creek. There has also been offered for sale the property on Little Bay at Willoughby Beach formerly used as a private commercial Negro resort.

Council recently agreed with Ocean View property owners who objected to the proposed site west of Little Creek on the grounds that the beach there would destroy Ocean View property values that it would consider an alternate site if one could be found satisfactory to colored citizens and to which there were not too much objections on the part of adjacent property owners.

Councilman Robertson's committee has been conferring with leading colored citizens and white property owners with regard to the Bradford site which was suggested by a committee of Ocean View property owners headed by E. A. Page, but nothing definite has yet been accomplished, he said today. Several other sites have been suggested, he said, but most of them are entirely out of the question.

No definite steps have been taken to negotiate with the owners of the Bradford property, the suggestion as it now stands being merely that about 50 acres of it be acquired if possible, either by condemnation of purchase. The boundaries of the suggested 50 acres have not been defined. Councilman Robertson fears that the cost of this site will prove prohibitive as compared with the 14.84-acre tract west of Little Creek previously decided upon.

Parks and Recreation - 1930

Virginia

3

LEDGER-DISPATCH
NORFOLK, VA.

JAN 16 1930

NEGRO BEACH REFERENDUM IS NOW SUGGESTED

Ocean View Residents Prepare To Fight Council's Action In Selecting Site

Residents of the Ocean View section are preparing to take every action within their power to prevent the purchase by the city of a site at Little Creek for the establishment of a Negro bathing beach, it was indicated today by comments of leaders in that section on city council's approval yesterday of the much-discussed ordinance appropriating $14,841 for the purpose. The four-to-one vote by council followed a public hearing in the city auditorium which was attended by more than 500 people.

A referendum is being talked of as the most likely defensive weapon, and court action by special interests owning property or real estate developments in the neighborhood is mentioned as probable.

"The people of Ocean View feel that council has given them a raw, rotten deal," declared Dr. J. W. Reed, who presented a petition at the hearing yesterday, said to bear 1,442 signatures in protest to the passage of the ordinance.

The ordinance making the appropriation for purchasing the park site will not become effective until February 13, under the normal procedure. An ordinance, unless adopted under an emergency clause, does not become effective before 30 days after passage.

City council yesterday voted four to one for an appropriation of $14,841 to buy a 14.84 acre beach front site at Little Creek, on Chesapeake bay, for a colored bathing beach, in the face of heated protests which came principally from residents and property owners in the northern section of the city near Ocean View.

Councilman Hugh L. Butler cast the only dissenting vote after explaining that while he was in favor of the purchase of a beach site for colored citizens, yet he felt in view of the storm of protest that it would

(Continued from Page 1)

be better to turn the ordinance back for the selection of a location at some other point on the shore line. He referred also to the city's agreement with the Wells interests at Ocean View, and specifically denied any political motive in his adverse vote. Otherwise there was no discussion by members of council preceding their formal vote.

Eleven Speakers Heard

During the hearing eleven speakers gave utterance to vigorous protest against the proposed site for the beach, dwelling principally upon the injury to property values they declared would certainly follow.

Three speakers urged council to pass the ordinance, including two of the colored race. During the latter talks it was pointed out that the Negroes legally are entitled to use of public parks, golf courses and municipal beach property at Ocean View, but had always "waived those rights in order to keep on peaceful terms with the white."

The suggestion was made that "thinking Negroes have come to the point where they wonder if they have been wise in waiving their rights, and if they should not in the future demand the rights to which they are legally entitled." Of twenty-one parks in the city, not one is available to the black man or his children, it was asserted. The speakers in behalf of the colored citizens pointed to the Negro resort which has been in operation adjacent to Buckroe Beach for a quarter of a century as evidence that no disorder or property depreciation would necessarily follow the establishment of the proposed beach site at Little Creek.

The crowd began to gather around the municipal building more than an hour before the time for opening the session of council, and had grown to such proportions before 3 o'clock that announcement was made that the hearing would take place in the city auditorium.

The council meeting was opened in the council chamber as required by law with prayer by Rev. D. N. McLauchlin, D. D., pastor of Second Presbyterian church. The role was called and the minutes of the preceding meeting read. Councilmen then moved to the auditorium and occupied seats on the stage during the hearing.

On account of the large number present, Mayor S. Heth Tyler called to those who desired to speak on either side to give their names to John Corbell, deputy city clerk, and designate the number of minutes they desired. A total of 56 minutes was set aside for the opposition speakers and 25 minutes for the proponents of the ordinance. Two of the speakers who had signified their desire to speak for the park failed to respond when their names were called.

Councilmen returned to the council chamber before voting. The announcement of the result was met with further protest from the opponents of the measure.

Councilmen Warned

Women shook their fingers at the councilmen.

"You'll hear from this!" one of them threatened as she passed the council table on the way to the door. Whisperings of "disgrace to Norfolk," "we'll show them" and "they forget we have ballots," buzzed among the disgruntled group.

A petition, according to A. S. Jakeman, is to be circulated for signatures, asking the Pennsylvania Railroad not to dispose of the property for use as a Negro bathing beach.

The Ocean View residents who spoke during the hearing claimed they had nothing against the Negro race and had the highest regard for the Negro citizens of Virginia, but they asked that the resort be located at some other place to prevent the practical "confiscation of the property of 10,000 people," which would result from its closeness to the Ocean View community.

Diggs Speaks

J. Eugene Diggs, colored attorney, was the principal spokesman for his race.

"The thinking colored people of Norfolk are getting to the place," he said, "where they are beginning to wonder in what regard they are really held by the white people of this city." He referred to the professions of friendship, but pointed out that a certain element of the whites always rise up vigorously to protest against any specific proposition.

"They say first that this beach would destroy property values," the attorney continued. "The same kind of crowd as this came and made the same argument against the building of our high school, saying it would ruin all values on Maltby avenue and in that section." He pointed out that this prediction had not been justified, and declared that the present contention of the opponents of the beach at Little Creek would equally prove to be without foundation.

Diggs referred to the various parks and beaches provided for white people, especially the white parks and the municipal bathing beach on the "No Man's Land" site at Ocean View.

Property once dedicated for public use," he declared, "is open not only for use of the whites, but by Negroes as well. The Negroes have always waived their rights because they have wanted to live in peace with the white people. The city has golf courses, used exclusively by white people. What is to stop the Negroes, being citizens and paying their taxes, from going on those golf courses and using them—nothing, except their desire for peace.

"There are no segregation laws in Norfolk or in the state. The Supreme Court of the United States has passed on them," he declared. "But we want to live in peace. At the present time we are discussing not only the establishment of this particular bathing beach, but we are talking of our fundamental rights. We ask you gentlemen of the council to do this thing you have undertaken to do because it is right and just."

Diggs referred to the Negro beach in operation adjacent to Buckroe Beach without other separation between the two except a post.

"Those two beaches have been there together for 25 years," he said, "and thousands of Negroes have been there at a time, and yet not one Negro has ever trespassed on the white resort of Buckroe Beach. The whites are always saying they have the most friendly feelings for the colored population, and yet whenever anything is to be done for the Negro a certain element comes to the front and protests.

"The thinking members of the race as a result are doubting whether the Negro has been altogether wise in waiving his rights, when that action seems to have caused the whites to doubt he has any rights to waive. And they doubt if it is wise for them to waive those rights any further.

"If colored people went to the public beach at Ocean View they would be asked to get off," he continued, "but if they took the matter into the courts every lawyer knows what the result would be. The Negro has a right to the use of public property. The threats of certain whites to use violence in putting Negroes off such property is admission in itself that they have no legal right to put them off."

Bailey Park and Country Club

J. M. Harrison, also colored, pointed to the Bailey Park colored amusement center at Titustown, which is close to the Norfolk Country Club, and called the attention of the meeting to the fact that there has never been any friction between Negro residents of that section, those going to and from the park and the white people who go to the Country Club or use the Titustown road.

"The Negro is not asking for social equality," he declared, "but merely for the consideration to which he is entitled. There are 21 parks in the city of Norfolk, and not one for the black man or his children. Is that fair? I am appealing to the white man's conscience."

Mrs. Frank Anthony Walke declared that there would be objections against whatever site might be proposed for a Negro beach. She referred again to Buckroe Beach, where she said Richmond Sunday schools hold frequent excursions and where Richmond people have their summer cottages.

"Only a post separates the two resorts, and yet there has never been any disorder."

"The Negroes come into our homes, they cook for us, they take care of our children—we owe this to them," Mrs. Walke concluded.

Turner Objects

R. W. Turner, who described himself as a former member of the North Carolina state senate and a long time resident of Ocean View, said that the ordinance under consideration involved more than the question of doing something for the minority, that it also involved more than the question of doing something for the minority, that it also involved the question of whether it was not going to do a greater injury to the majority.

Claiming to represent the 10,000 residents of the section including Ocean View, Willoughby, Lenox and surrounding developments, Mr. Turner declared that not a bit of land in those areas had been sold without a clause stipulating that it was not to be used as colored residential property or resold for such use. More than 3,000 lots in the section remain unsold, he said, and to put the beach at the proposed location would make them worthless, as well as bringing about an undesirable racial condition.

"The location of a colored bathing beach at the Little Creek site would mean that the property of 10,000 people would be confiscated," Mr. Turner contended. "If this thing is put over, it will mean that those who have bought property in that section might as well throw it away.

"Ocean View should be the pride of every man, woman and child in the city," he continued. "But if the news goes out that a colored bathing beach is in operation next to Ocean View, all these North Carolina people who have been coming regularly every year will avoid it. They will go to Virginia Beach instead. And that is why all these Virginia Beach people are here today. They are here trying to force it on us."

Mrs. Louis E. Guy, representing the Ocean View Improvement League, declared that Little Creek long has been known as the happy playground of the youth of Norfolk and she begged of council to "spare the children's playground." The beach would not be a place for the poorer colored people to go, but for those who can pay, she said.

"It will be a money making scheme," Mrs. Guy declared.

Dr. J. W. Reid presented a resolution which he said had been passed by the League for the Development of Ocean View, asking council not to buy the site which had been proposed, but to obtain land east of Little Creek between Chesapeake Beach and Ocean Park—a site known as the Buchanan tract.

Dr. Reid admitted that the Buchanan tract would probably cost more to buy, but he pointed out that it could be reached by a hardsurfaced road, leading directly to the beach. He was referring to the Waterworks and Chesapeake Beach roads. He also declared that this portion of shore line would be more isolated.

"We don't want it on the west side of the Little Creek terminals, and we cannot have it there," Dr. Reid declared.

Joseph Morris said that the distance from the end of Willoughby Spit to the Norfolk-Princess Anne county line is 5 3-10 miles, and that the distance between the city limits and the proposed colored beach is 1 7-10 miles. In the stretch of 5 3-10 miles, he said, there are now only 110 vacant lots, and he predicted that the remaining 1 7-10 miles would soon be built up solid if the progress of development were not halted by the establishment of a colored bathing beach.

Suggests Golf Course

Mr. Morris suggested the building of a golf course for the Negro population, and declared he had nothing against the race.

"I should like to see them have two or three golf courses," he said.

E. H. Lemon, a naval warrant officer, said that the establishment of the beach would mean the coming of trainloads of Negroes from New York, Washington, Richmond, Philadelphia and Baltimore, and that the boulevards in this section would be "cluttered with broken down cars."

"We want a different location, or the best thing for the people living in that section to do is to get up and clear out of Ocean View," he asserted. "I shall leave Norfolk just as soon as this site becomes a colored amusement park.

A. S. J. Jakeman declared that if council should not see fit to kill the ordinance he was preparing to circulate a petition asking the Pennsylvania Railroad to refuse to sell the proposed land for use as a Negro resort.

S. G. L. Hitch, speaking for the Wells Amusement interests, said that his principals were absolutely opposed to the establishment of the colored beach at the Little Creek location.

C. G. Mays presented a petition which he said had been signed by 1,442 "respectable residents" of the Ocean View section, asking for the abandonment of the idea of buying the Little Creek site as "not only a crime against the white people, but a crime against the colored population as well." This beach would serve not as a bathing resort, but as a battleground, he declared, on account of its limited size, and he suggested the purchase of a site which would be capable of more expansion.

E. A. Page presented a resolution of protest adopted Saturday night at a mass meeting of Ocean View residents, setting forth that the beach at Little Creek would destroy property values throughout the northern section of the city. Mr. Page praised council for the improvements made at Ocean View during the last five years, and declared that passage of the ordinance under consideration would destroy all that good work.

"If you want to do something for the darkies," he said, "give them a park they can walk to. Don't make a resort for gamblers and crapshooters."

VIRGINIAN-PILOT
NORFOLK, VA.

FEB 5 - 1930

NEGRO PARK EAST OF LITTLE CREEK WILL BE OPPOSED

Protest Received From A. Gordon Stephenson; Restriction On Sale of Second-hand Building Materials Killed

The prospect that the City Council will meet with something of the same opposition to locating a Negro bathing beach to the east of the Pennsylvania Railroad terminals that it met in its proposal to locate the resort to the west of the railroad development, was seen yesterday when A. Gordon Stephenson wrote to the council to protest against a suggestion that a portion of the Buchanan property, between the Bradford estate and Cape Henry, be condemned for the resort.

This communication was referred to the council's park committee, composed of Councilmen Robertson and Wood, who are to co-operate with a citizens' committee of five, headed by E. A. Page, with a view of locating a site for the Negro beach that will be less objectionable to the white people than the proposed site at Little Creek has appeared to be.

The park committee had nothing to report in the way of progress toward negotiations for another site. In discussions of a possible new location the Buchanan property and the Bradford both were suggested as possibilities. At that time members of the council suggested themselves that the owners of property in the neighborhood of the proposed location also might object. The first of the objections was contained in Mr. Stephenson's communication. It was accepted without comment by the council.

Kill Ordinance

An ordinance proposed by the Real Estate Board, making it unlawful under certain conditions for individuals to dispose of second-hand building materials of a specified character without first obtaining a permit from city authorities, was killed. It was designed to protect owners of vacant houses from vandalism, but City Attorney Sebrell held that the present laws on larceny would cover the case, and that he felt such an ordinance would be inadvisable. He also said he had some doubt as to its validity if it were adopted.

The proposed improvement of Connecticut avenue, Colonial Place, under discussion for several weeks, was discussed again by Semmes Chapman, representing affected property owners, and was sent back to the City Manager for

(Turn to P

further consideration. It appeared that the council was nearer the point where it might vote to make the improvement. Appropriation of $7,800 for paving Maryland avenue was approved. The Connecticut avenue improvement is estimated to cost $7,000.

Appropriation of $4,900 for improvement of La Salle avenue from Cottage Toll road to its western end, was approved. The council declined to approve an appropriation of $3,000 for smooth-paving the western end of Main street, which is now paved with cobblestones. The Baltimore Steam Packet Company, whose piers are at the end of the street, sought the improvement.

The City Manager was authorized to proceed with condemnation activities for acquiring right of way for the landing of the new Granby street bridge, and to get possession of the building at the northwest corner of Freemason and Boush streets, for widening the latter. The proceedings in both cases are well under way in their preliminary stages and can be consummated shortly.

School Board Request

A request of the City School Board for appropriation of funds to conduct a school survey of the city, was referred to the City Manager. It will cost $1,800 to $2,000.

Appropriations of $950 for renovation of the offices in the city jail, and $560 for construction of a diet kitchen at the Henry A. Wise Memorial Hospital, were approved.

The following men were re-elected, for one year, as members of the Board of Examiners for Electrical Contractors: J. Thompson Neely, R. A. Smith, W. M. Eaton, T. David FitzGibbon and John J. Collins.

The proposal, made by property owners, for the city to build a seawall with a series of jetties on the waterfront from Ocean View to Willoughby, was laid on the table for the present. The proposal was referred to the City Manager, after a hearing by the council, last August.

Property owners have been unable to reach agreement for participation in the project, and for this reason Assistant City Manager Walter H. Taylor, recommended that the file on the subject be closed.

W. B. Deming was appointed a public weigher for the city. He receives no compensation from the city, but collects fees from those he serves.

Creation of the post of inspector, at $250 a month for the new Granby street bridge construction project, was approved. The City Manager is to name the man,

VIRGINIAN-PILOT
NORFOLK, VA.

FEB 8 1930

Site East of Little Creek Likely Choice of Citizens' Committee for Negro Beach

Page Says Any Location Selected Will Cause Protests But He Believes Bradford Estate Offers Least Objectionable Tract

The citizens' committee co-operating with the City Council's park committee in an effort to select a site for a Negro bathing beach that will be less objectionable than the tentative site chosen at Little Creek in all probability will recommend that a tract of waterfront in the Bradford estate, immediately to the east of the Pennsylvania Railroad terminals be condemned for the beach site.

F. A. Page, prominent realtor who is chairman of the citizens' committee, stated yesterday that he had looked over the entire situation and was of the opinion that the Bradford property offered the best solution to the problem. He stated that he was speaking personally, and that the committee had taken no action in the matter.

"The members of the committee to whom I have talked," he said, "have expressed a similar opinion."

Suggests 50 Acres

Mr. Page asid that he felt the city should condemn a tract of not less than 50 acres for the Negro beach on the Bradford estate. He was not prepared to venture an opinion as to what the land would cost.

"I think if we are going to give them something," he said, "we ought to provide a place big enough for the bathing beach. The site chosen at Little Creek in my opinion is not big enough."

The only other location that has been advanced with anything like force, is on the Buchanan property which is east of the Bradford estate. This property has been considered tentatively by the council's committee, along with other available sites for the Negro resort.

Mr. Page said that he had no doubt some objection would be raised to locating the Negro beach on the Bradford estate, but that the objections would be far less numerous than those voiced when the site at Little Creek was announced as having been selected by the council's committee.

"There will be objections," he said, "to any site selected, but I think what we have to do is to find the site that offers the least objection."

Committee to Meet

The council's park committee is to meet within the next week, perhaps, to confer with the citizens' committee in an effort to work out some solution of what has proven a rather difficult problem for the council. Sentiment in Ocean View is unalterably opposed to the Little Creek site for the Negro resort. It was this opposition that chairman of the citizen's committee, brought about the citizens' committee and an agreement witt the council that the latter's committee co-operate in an effort to find some site that would be less objectionable to property owners.

The only site which has been offered definitely, aside from the Little Creek site, is a tract of 75 acres to the south of Virginia Beach. The council is not likely to consider this, however, since one of the main objections to placing the resort east of the Pennsylvania terminals was that it was too far from the city there.

Some opposition already has been voiced to locating the Negro resort on the Buchanan property. The council has on file an objection from the Bayville Corporation, through its secretary, A. Gordon Stephenson. This is based on the fact this corporation owns land in the vicinity of the Buchanan property, and feels that its land would depreciate in value by proximity to the proposed Negro beach.

Mr. Page said that he, and his committee, did not propose to take an arbitrary stand in the matter, but would exert every effort to assist the council in finding a site that would be more suitable to all parties concerned than the site at Little Creek.

Parks and Recreation - 1930

Virginia

LEDGER-DISPATCH
NORFOLK, VA.

JAN 2 1930

Negro Park Site Is 2 Miles From The Cottage Line

Councilman Robertson Gives Location; Ocean View Meeting Tomorrow

Residents of the cottage line at Ocean View, preparing for a mass meeting tomorrow night to protest the establishment of a municipal Negro bathing beach east of the resort, today were seeking definite information on the exact location of the proposed development.

The proposed resort, ordinance providing for which has already been approved by City Council on first reading, occupies 14.84 acres adjoining the Pennsylvania Railroad's property at Little Creek and extends for 1,000 feet west along Chesapeake Bay, Councilman E. Jeff Robertson, who heads the council's committee on the matter, said today.

The western edge of the development is at least 2½ miles, possibly three, from the city limits and the cottage line, he explained. He said that he does not believe there is a cottage within two miles of the site. The beach is separated from the mainland by one of the city's chain of lakes. A public hearing will take place before City Council at its meeting next Tuesday when those opposed to the development will be permitted to present their views.

The Ocean View mass meeting is scheduled to take place tomorrow night at 8:30 o'clock at the Nansemond Hotel.

LEDGER-DISPATCH
NORFOLK, VA.

JAN 2 2 1930

THE BATHING BEACH QUESTION

One of our correspondents today asks why the white people should pay for a bathing beach for colored people. It must be done for the same reason that the well-to-do counties and cities of the state must pay the cost of equalizing school facilities in the poorer counties—which is that such facilities must be supplied and that the cost must be paid by those who can pay, not by those who cannot pay.

In this particular instance, there are a dozen reasons why the white people and the municipality itself should provide a bathing beach for the Negro population of Norfolk. One of the outstanding reasons is this: Under the law, the Negroes have precisely the same property rights as the whites; under the law, a Negro who owns a piece of property fronting on the water has precisely the same right to use that water front as a white person owning the same piece would have; under the law, there is nothing to prevent the Negroes from establishing a bathing beach at any place on the ocean or bay at which they could acquire property—perhaps through the contributions of wealthy men and women in the North.

And, even more specifically, the residents of Ocean View are reminded that the city owns 1,000 feet of water front at Ocean View; that this is public property; and that the Negroes, if they chose to make a test of it, could establish in any court in the United States their right to utilize that tract of public property as a bathing beach. Would it not be the part of wisdom for Ocean View residents and property owners to refrain from opposing the establishment of a segregated beach for Negroes at another point on the bay?

Mr. McIntire's courteous questions are to be answered, of course. As to policing the proposed beach, there can be no trouble: it is repeated that the Negroes will police themselves, quite apart from the authority which will be exercised by special police. It is generally known that at Buckroe Beach there is no visible dividing line, but that the Negroes never encroach upon that part of the beach which adjoins theirs. He is right in asserting that the original Little Creek has been filled in by accretion. It could, however, be dredged and kept open, and would thus provide an actual, physical barrier on the western side of the tract selected for a bathing beach for the Negroes. As for the general provision made by the city for its Negroes, an even casual journey through those sections of the city in which they live should convince any observer that, whatever is being done now, the condition of street after street bears silent, muddy witness to the fact that they are traversed by people who for a long time have been the "neglected third."

LEDGER-DISPATCH
NORFOLK, VA.

JAN 4 - 1930

A BATHING BEACH FOR NEGROES

To our correspondent, C. L. McIntyre, whose protest against Council's proposal to purchase land on Chesapeake Bay and establish a Negro bathing beach appears on this page today, the Ledger-Dispatch replies—with all respect for Mr. McIntire and in the best of good humor—that his protest is similar to a great many which have been looked for and which will be made, except that his is far more temperate, courteous and apparently reasonable than many which will reach Council.

In the first place, the Ledger-Dispatch has long held that the failure of the City of Norfolk or of the white people of the City of Norfolk to provide an adequate bathing beach for the city's Negro population is a sharp and humiliating reflection, not at all upon the Negroes, but upon the white people themselves. Here we are surrounded by many miles of deep-water front, of which an uncalculated portion is now put to no use whatever; here we are numbering among our people some 70,000 of those whom we like to call, are proud to call, "the best colored people in the world"; here we are, from time to time, lamenting sporadic migrations of Southern Negroes to the North; here we are holding ourselves out as the only people who truly understand the Negro; here we are claiming to be the best friends, the only real friends, of the Negro. And here we are, or here we have been, too selfish or too indifferent or too callous or too arrogant or too fearful of some vague bugaboo to make any effort even to provide more than one-third of our population with facilities which the poorest of our white people are able to enjoy at a trifling cost.

If we are fit to call ourselves the best friends of the Negro, if we are fit to be entrusted with the right to rule—a right which we insist we shall continue to exercise, if we are fit to hold ourselves to be trustees for the race which we brought over to this country and which we have brought up at our doorsteps, then we must prove it by righting this flagrant wrong.

It is just to our present correspondent to say that none of this, apparently, need be said in applying to or commenting on his communication. But it must be said in anticipation of other and unreasonable and perhaps cruel protests which will be filed before Council before this matter is settled. And it must be said over and over, no doubt, until it is settled as it should be settled. As to Mr. McIntire's specific protest and its several counts:

The site selected was chosen by citizens of Norfolk after long and detailed study of the entire deep-water frontage within a number of miles of Norfolk. It was fixed upon, at least tentatively, because it is on deep water, and not on any one of the little bays and put-ins which have been suggested from time to time as "good enough for the Negroes." And it has been considered possible to acquire that site from the Pennsylvania because that great corporation has been assured it would be meeting an altruistic demand if it agreed to convey this particular tract for this particular purpose. It goes without saying that the Pennsylvania does not need $11,000 from the City of Norfolk or from any other source: it could hold that eleven acres of land until the crack of doom and forget all about it except when tax-paying time rolled round.

It was selected, too, because it was realized that both wisdom and expediency urged that such a bathing beach be as much isolated, segregated, if the word pleases, as possible. And this site is bounded on one side by the Pennsylvania Terminals, on the opposite side by Little Creek, on another side by Chesapeake Bay, and on the last side by undeveloped country. If a tract of land better adapted for such a health and pleasure resort for our colored people can be found in this entire state, its location has not been disclosed.

As to transportation: Mr. McIntire has traced two routes which will not be followed, either now or in the future. At this time even, the Waterworks Road would offer the shortest route to the Shore Drive and that boulevard would be traversed for a short distance only. Further, and still with all respect, Mr. McIntire is mistaken in asserting that "the necessary road improvements which are contemplated would undoubtedly carry the traffic throughout the entire length of East Ocean View and through the center of it." The road which is contemplated would run almost in a straight line from the Negro residential section of Norfolk to the site which has been selected.

As to property depreciation: Have the very "smart" outlying districts of Norfolk been deleteriously affected by the proximity of Titustown? Would Virginia Beach property be harmfully affected by the placing of such a bathing beach at the point suggested by Mr. McIntire? The fear that East Ocean View, cut off as it is by Little Creek, would be injured is, in the judgment of the Ledger-Dispatch, unfounded.

VIRGINIAN-PILOT
NORFOLK, VA.

JAN 12 1930

NEGRO BATHING BEACH OPPOSED BY RESIDENTS OF OCEAN VIEW

Mass Meeting At Nansemond Hotel Adopts Resolution To Be Presented To City Council Setting Forth Basis of Opposition

EFFECT ON PROPERTY VALUES IS STRESSED

Handbill Distributed Says Establishment of Proposed Resort Is Function of Private Enterprise; Mentions "Peculiar Altruists"

More than 200 residents and property owners of Ocean View gathered in mass meeting last night at the Nansemond Hotel to crystallize the sentiment of that district in regard to the ordinance now in the hands of the City Council, and which provides for municipal purchase of 11 acres of land from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company east of Ocean View, fronting 1,000 feet on Chesapeake Bay, to be used as a Negro bathing beach and resort.

At the end of the meeting a resolution opposing adoption of the ordinance was read by the secretary, Paul T. Collins, and passed by a unanimous vote.

The meeting, which began at 8:30 o'clock, was presided over by E. A. Page. Mr. Page called first for expressions of opinion on the municipal project of a Negro bathing beach near Ocean View.

Criticizes Newspapers

One of the first speakers was W. M. White. Mr. White intimated rather plainly that in his opinion the beach project was backed in certain quarters for political reasons. Following him, R. W. Turner spoke. He complimented those present for being there, and in the course of his talk criticized the newspapers of Norfolk because he said that they had not given the matter of the beach sufficient publicity.

Other speakers included W. W. Old, and former State Senator Alfred Smith.

The resolution finally passed by the meeting, and which will be presented at the next meeting of the City Council by a committee composed of E. A. Page, Mr. Talbot and Joseph Morris, reads as follows under the heading "Resolutions in Regard to Colored Resort at East Ocean View:"

Whereas, an ordinance before the City Council which has been approved by them, has passed its first reading, appropriating the necessary money and instructing the City Manager to arrange for the purchase from the Pennsylvania Railroad of a certain 11 acres of land, east of Ocean View, fronting 1,000 feet on Chesapeake Bay, for the purpose of establishing there a Negro park and shore resort; and

Whereas, it is the eopinion of the citizens of the northern half of the city, as enlarged, that the establishment of this resort would be most unwise and inadvisable; and

Whereas, the citizens and the property-owners of the northern half of the City of Norfolk have met in mass meeting at the Nansemond Hotel, this 11th day of January, 1930, and having duly considered this matter, do disapprove of the same;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that we are opposed to the establishment of this resort on the following grounds:

First. Because of the great harm it will do in the lowering of property values, not only in the immediate section, but also in the entire northern half of the city. There would be a large decrease in the assessable value of property and large loss of taxes accruing to the city thereby.

Affect Adjacent Property

2nd. Because its location at this point would seriously affect all adjacent property and tend to destroy the popularity and development of the Shore Drive recently built at large expense for the development of our wonderful shore line which is fast becoming an attraction to thousands of tourists and summer vacationists.

3rd. Because it will be impracticable to use any other road leading to the property without traversing the Shore Drive a part of the way. People going out on one road this resort will return by another road, thus causing double trouble. The appearance of half-clad persons in bathing suits in open touring cars on our roads is always, more or less, a nuisance. The out-of-town colored people would, of course, use the Old Point Ferry, Willoughby boulevard and Shore Drive to reach this park.

4th. Because the site is inaccessible as to transportation and can only be reached by busses which would certainly be inadequate to handle the crowds going there, especially on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

5th. Because it would be almost impossible to preserve order in such a resort if publicly owned.

6th. Because there is not a municipal Negro beach resort on either the Atlantic or Pacific Coast.

7th. Because the white and colored races have always lived at peace with each other in the City of Norfolk. The colored people pay into our city treasury a very small part of our taxes, but have received schools, paved streets, sanitation, etc., far in excess of any amount they have contributed.

8th. Because no Negro resort in this section has ever been a success. If this project should be a success, then there is no way of computing the amount of damage it would do to other property. If it failed to be a success it would also ruin surrounding property.

9th. It would tend to prevent Ocean View and Virginia Beach growing together.

10th. The intial cost of the land would be but a small part of the expense the property would have to be developed, buildings erected and other large outlays to keep the premises in good order. Furthermore, if the swarms of colored pepole that might at times patronize this resort are to be kept off the Shore Drive, it would be necessary for the city to go to the expense of having from five to ten miles of other roads for them to travel on, all of which would entail the city great expense, for which there would be no adequate returns.

Be it further resolved, That we appoint the chairman and secretary of this meeting a committee to present this resolution to the honorable council of the city of Norfolk.

Copies of a handbill have been circulated among the residents of Ocean Viewm, which deals with the city government generally and the beach resort for Negroes in particular. The handbill states that: "The establishment of a Negro amusement resort, bathing beach, or health center for either race, is not the obligation of the municipality but the function of private enterprise. The city has no moral or legal right to interfere with the progress of such private enterprise, legitimately conducted, lest those responsible for such action run the gantlet of adverse public opinion and the suspicion of ulterior motive."

The handbill also sets forth that if the residents of Ocean View and the voters of Norfolk want to stop the activities of the "peculiar altruists who are sponsoring the purchasing of land by the city of Norfolk," it will be necessary for them to resort to a referendum under sections 35, 36 and 37 of the Norfolk city charter, and qualifies this by addressing the readers, "This offers you the only chance you will have to stop the string of manipulators of the Municipal Punch and Judy Show from carrying out their scheme to infringe upon your property rights." The handbill is signed by Leopold M. Brown.

VIRGINIAN-PILOT
NORFOLK, VA.

JAN 12 1930

Letters From Our Readers

The Virginian-Pilot welcomes letters on topics of current interest. Short letters are preferred. The right is reserved to cut letters of more than 300 words. Correspondents are requested to write on only one side of the paper and to give their names and addresses with every letter. An assumed name may appear in print if it is so desired, but the real name must be furnished the editor as an evidence of good faith. Letters unavailable for publication will be returned only when accompanied by stamped and addressed envelope.

NEGRO BATHING BEACH AND TAXES

Editor, Virginian-Pilot:

Anent the opposition to the Negro bathing beach, the point is made that "Norfolk's colored citizens paid real estate taxes totaling approximately $150,000, compared with over $4,000,000 paid by white people on their real estate."

If we are going to follow that line of reasoning in the beach matter we may as well apply it to appropriations for schools, and for fire and police protection, as well as to street improvements. But if we do that, what is to become of the correct theory and practice of public taxation? What will become of the large percentage of white people who pay no real estate taxes at all? Would the 25 per cent of white people who pay probably 75 per cent of the taxes receive 75 per cent of the benefits?

Just who pays the taxes is a moot question anyhow. The best answer to it is that many property owners in this city whose houses have been vacant over a long period of time are tearing down these houses in order to reduce their tax bills. If their houses were occupied by tenants they would not demolish them because the tenants pay the taxes as well as the rent.

If by any strange circumstance the 70,000 Negroes in Norfolk were suddenly transplanted to another city an amazing debacle would hit real estate, and the $4,000,000 in taxes paid by white people would be reduced by about one-fourth. No man can, or does pay taxes on more property than he occupies. When he rents a house to a Negro tenant the tenant pays the taxes, the insurance and the upkeep and gives him in addition a fair return in cash on his investment.

By the same law of economics every time a Negro rides on a street car or bus, buys a pair of shoes, a ton of coal, a bag of flour or a pound of coffee, he pays taxes. The fact that he does not own in fee simple the house he lives in, or own stock in the street car company, or in the mercantile establishments with which he trades, makes him no less a taxpayer.

Give the poorer, disadvantaged people a chance at better housing, a chance to improve their physical and moral stamina, a chance to combat disease, and they will become larger taxpayers, indirectly and directly.

P. B. YOUNG.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 10, 1930.

TELEGRAPH
ALTON, ILL.

JAN 7 1930

Playground Board To Continue Negro Recreation Here

Votes $100 to Carry on Activities; to Seek Additional Aid

Alton's negro recreation program will be continued through the remainder of this year despite the fact that weather kept the concert given by the Alton Negro Chorus Dec. 20 from being a financial success, it was decided at a meeting of the Alton Playground and Recreation Commission Board Monday noon.

An appropriation of $100 was voted to allow the continuation of the program, which includes the work with the chorus as well as the athletic and physical development activities carried on at Lovejoy school. The gymnasium classes at the school will reopen Jan. 12, Superintendent Ray Myers announced today.

The concert was kept from showing a deficit by a $75 cut in the fee of the chorus director, G. L. Johnson, made by the National Recreation and Playground Association.

Concert in 1931

Although the chorus will not give another concert this spring, the board voted to recall G. L. Johnson, negro music promoter of the American Playground and Recreation Association, to Alton in the spring of 1931 for a concert to be given in May of that year. He would have been unable to return this year as his services are engaged until January, 1931.

The reason for the voting of the $100 to the negro recreation was the good condition of the budget. However, the sum appropriated will not be enough to carry on the work as it is being carried on at present.

Superintendent Myers said today it would be necessary to seek aid from sources other than the Recreation fund if the work was to be continued.

Yager Park Playground

The board also considered the possibility of securing, either by purchase or by lease, Yager park, for use as a playground and recreation center for the East End district.

The tract is in the hands of H. Grabbe, who purchased it for storage purposes recently, the board found. Grabbe has indicated that he will make the site available to the Recreation and Playground Commission for its purpose, however.

Parks and Recreation – 1930

Virginia

LEDGER-DISPATCH
NORFOLK, VA.

JAN 1 8 1930

AN ACT OF JUSTICE AND COURAGE

Council's vote of yesterday afternoon on the question of a bathing beach for Negroes near Little Creek was a triumph of and for justice and courage. It was a triumph of and for justice because it would be grossly unjust for the 120,000 white people of Norfolk to continue to prevent 70,000 Negroes of Norfolk from enjoying the manifold blessings of deep water bathing. It was a triumph of and for courage because it required courage on the part of Council to go counter, openly to go counter, to the expressed and otherwise obvious will of those four or five hundred persons who assembled in the City Auditorium and who were at times—many of them—angry and excited. The Ledger-Dispatch is confident now, as it has been for a considerable period, that the mass of Norfolk's people approve Council's vote to acquire the necessary water front property; but, as was expected and as was prophesied in these columns, very few who approve the project took the trouble to attend the meeting of Council, while its opponents were present in large number—vigorously present. There were times, yesterday afternoon, when some of the opponents of the plan were stirred by some of the speakers to something very like the mob spirit.

It goes without saying, although it has been said and in these columns, that those who feared the effect on their property values were fully justified in appearing before Council and giving voice to their opinion. The Ledger-Dispatch is convinced that their property will not be injured in the slightest degree. It is convinced that there will not be the slightest trouble about policing the bathing beach. It is convinced that the fears of those who have talked about "ruining our Shore Drive" are wholly without warrant in fact. It is convinced, further, that the time will come when even those who protested most earnestly yesterday against the action finally taken by Council will realize that Council acted wisely and with far-sighted understanding of conditions now and to come. Then they will join with the rest in remembering with gratitude the fearless course of S. Heth Tyler, C. E. Herbert, E. Jeff Robertson and J. D. Wood.

How much the opponents of the project were moved, how much members of Council were strengthened in their purpose, by the speech of J. Eugene Diggs, the Negro lawyer who was the principal speaker in behalf of the Negroes and of the plan, it is impossible to say. They must have felt the fervor that emanated from the man; they must have sensed the sincerity that informed his every word; they must have realized that at that moment a man, not a lawyer, was setting out in blazing words the cause of his whole race; they must have been alive to the drama, even the tragedy, of the situation. In the face of a large and hostile crowd, at the end of a series of hostile addresses, this Negro man stood up unafraid and made, without hesitation and without resort to a note, a speech almost tremendous in its power and almost irresistible in its dignified appeal to intelligence.

The Ledger-Dispatch rejoices that Council yesterday voted for the just thing, the right thing. It has not the least doubt that Council's action will prove to be of large value to the community on its local side. Beyond that, it sees respect and approval and admiration flowing from many other communities, when they learn that Norfolk, where the Monitor and the Merrimac fought, in Virginia, which was the battlefield of the War Between the States—that this old city, which is in the very heart of what was the Confederate States of America, has so clearly recognized its obligations, its very trusteeship, as to have acquired a tract of land on deep water where its Negroes may enjoy the benefits and the blessings which hitherto the white people have reserved to themselves.

Plantation Beach, New Shore Resort For Colored of Norfolk and Vicinity Will Have Gala Opening Easter Mon.

Guide

Plantation Beach, is the name of the new resort that will open Easter Monday with park and beach facilities for colored people, on the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River, seven miles below the Norfolk Navy Yard on the waterfront, and a quarter mile beyond Dozier's Corner on the Great Bridge Road.

4-19-30

This tract comprises 30 acres of cleared land with lawns sloping to the waterfront, and more than 50 acres of wooded tract.

David Potillo, proprietor of the confectionery shop at 601 East Brambleton Avenue, is manager and promoter of the beach resort. For more than a year, Mr. Potillo states, plans have been going forward for the development of this site into a high class resort for colored people. At present workmen are engaged in widening the roadway that leads from the highway to the site. On the site proper is a large white frame and stone building of modern construction, consisting of ten spacious rooms, all of which have been laid off for the recreation of patrons. The river skirts the entire frontage, and it is the branch of the Elizabeth through which palatial yachts enroute to Florida go during the winter months to escape the horrors of the Sound route. Several huge oaks adorn the lawn, thus assuring almost complete shade during the summer months. Already the natural outlay of the site affords abundant bathing facilities, but improvements are underway which promise to assure a compiete bathing beach. The 30 acre lawn varies in topography such as to slope here and there directly into the river, and the placid waters of the Elizabeth offer very attractive bathing facilities when the proper approaches have been constructed.

Press

The building on the site is a huge structure. Formerly it was a large summer home, and it has many great rooms, foyers and summer porches all of which have been converted into lounging rooms, cafeteria, soft drink parlor and dance hall, preparatory to its opening as a resort on Easter Monday.

While at present only a dirt road leads from the concrete highway to the site, workman are engaged in doubling the width of this road, and it is entirely passable for auto traffic. Delco lighting system which afforded lights for the former occupants of the place is being replaced by a street lighting system, while water for the building is already connected.

Mr. Potillo states that every precaution has been taken to assure nothing but the best of order at resort throughout the summer, and proper police protection can be had when ever the occasion arise. In fact Plantation Beach is a most attractive site, having all the earmarks of a fine beach resort.

NORFOLK, VA.
VIRGINIAN-PILOT

DEC 15 1930

Why the Delay?

Nearly three months ago the State Corporation Commission conducted a public hearing in Richmond on the petition of the Council of the City of Norfolk for permission to institute condemnation proceedings for the acquisition of 14.7 acres of land near the Little Creek terminals of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Princess Anne County, for development as a beach recreation resort for Norfolk's Negro population. The Commission took jurisdiction in this case presumably for the reason that it involved the alienation of property belonging to a public service corporation—the Pennsylvania Railroad. Since the railroad company has already stated that the land in question is surplus property and not needed for the performance of its duties as a common carrier, it is difficult to understand what it is that is delaying the Corporation Commission's decision.

Properly speaking, the Commission has nothing to do with the question of the use to which the property is to be put, or of the public necessity for such use, or of the disturbances, real or fancied, to adjacent land values that such use might entail. The sole question before it is whether the land in question is so necessary to the proper functioning of the Pennsylvania Railroad as a common carrier as to outweigh Norfolk's need for it as a recreation center for a population element wholly without such facilities. That, it seems to the Virginian-Pilot, is a question so simple that ample time has elapsed for the Corporation Commission to have made up its mind on it. Why the delay?

It is important to have this question decided promptly for unless it is so decided, there will not be time enough to acquire the tract and make it available for use next summer. Should the Corporation Commission approve the city's petition, several weeks more will be required for the condemnation proceedings. Even if no more time is lost, it will be well toward spring before the city can take title to the tract and begin to make plans for the elementary improvements that will be necessary before it can be put to its intended use. No time is to be lost if the Negro population of this city is not to pass another summer—perhaps another cruel season of dry, torrid weather such as we had a few months ago—shut off from any access to a cooling beach. It is unjust, disgraceful and inhuman for this community, magnificently endowed with bay and ocean beaches and almost entirely surrounded by water, to tolerate any longer this century-old discrimination against a numerous, hard-working and tax-paying element of its people. Let the Corporation Commission do its part toward speeding a decision on this matter—one way or another—by making known its sufficiently delayed judgment on the city's petition.